Shojo Beat Manga

Tail of the Moon

Story & Art

Rinko Ueda

3

Tail of the Moon

Usagi is the granddaughter of the leader of a prestigious ninja village, but she's such a klutz that she's never made it out of the kiddie class. Frustrated with Usagi's lack of progress, her great-grandfather sends her to marry Lord Hanzo and have lots of ninja babies. But the lord has no interest in her or her childbearing potential!

After the devastating attack on Iga, Usagi becomes a better-skilled ninja. Even as Usagi takes solace from her friend Yuki and vows to move forward, she struggles to come to terms with her tragic losses. Meanwhile, rumor has it that Goemon is still alive at the capital! Usagi heads off to investigate, but she'll be surprised to see how much he's changed…

13

Story & Art by

Rinko Ueda

Shojo Beat

Tail of the Moon

13

Story & Art by

Rinko Ueda

All New Manga!

New Series

Shojo Beat

On sale at:
www.shojobeat.com
Also available at your local bookstore and comic store

RATED T OR TEEN

RATED T+ FOR OLDER TEEN

viz media
www.viz.com

Akuhaa to Bōku © Marimo Ragawa 1991/HAKUSENSHA, Inc. Binetty Pop © Kiyoko ARAI/Shogakukan Inc. Akusaga © Aya Kanno 2004/HAKUSENSHA, Inc.
CRIMSON HERO © 2002 by Mitsuba Takanashi/SHUEISHA Inc. Kiniro no Corda © Yuu Kuse, KOEI Co., Ltd. 2003/HAKUSENSHA, Inc. TSUKI-NO SHIP-PO © 2002 by Rinko Ueda/SHUEISHA Inc.
TIME STRANGER KYOKO © 2000 by Arina Tanemura/SHUEISHA Inc.

Tail of the Moon

Volume 13

CONTENTS

Chapter 85 3
Chapter 86 29
Chapter 87 55
Chapter 88 83
Chapter 89 109
Chapter 90 135
Chapter 91 161
Glossary 186

Story Thus Far...

It is the Era of the Warring States. With the success of preventing Oda Nobunaga's attack on Iga, Usagi finally becomes a qualified ninja. At long last, she is able to marry Hanzo. But on the night of the wedding, Nobunaga's army attacks the village! After leading Usagi and Mamezo to a hiding place in the forest, Hanzo heads back to face the army on his own. A few days later, Usagi returns to the village and is shocked to find Iga destroyed. She also hears that Hanzo is dead.

One year later, Usagi is working under Tokugawa Ieyasu. Yukimaru, who has returned from the West, takes Usagi with him to Iga for an investigation. But as they get closer to Iga, Usagi's health begins to deteriorate. She has been unable to accept the truth of what happened in Iga. With the warm support of Yukimaru and the others, however, Usagi is finally able to gather the strength to carry on.

ARE YOU SERIOUS ?!
YES...
HEY, BY ANY CHANCE... ARE YOU AN IGA NINJA?
CHAT
CHAT
WHAT KIND OF TECHNIQUES DO NINJA USE?
ER...
WHEN I WAS A KID, I WAS A HUGE FAN OF NINJA!!
AH HA HA HA
TARO ?!
SHING
CAN YOU CAN DODGE MY ATTACK JUST LIKE THAT?!

I THOUGHT IT WAS EASIER TO AVOID THE TRUTH...
IT'S THE HERMIT'S MOUNTAIN ...!!
THIS REALLY DOES BRING BACK MEMORIES...
I WAS WRONG.
BUT...

AS IN WHERE THE FAMOUS FUMA CLAN IS...?
YUKI, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF KOTARO FUMA?
NO...
ARE THEY FAMOUS?
DON'T DO ANYTHING DANGEROUS, YOU TWO...
TUP
USA IS EVEN MORE AMAZING!
PIECE OF CAKE... ♪
WOOOW ...!!
JUMP
OOH.
SHE SNEAKED INTO ODAWARA CASTLE JUST THE OTHER DAY AND STOLE AN IMPORTANT SCROLL!
ODA-WARA...
CASTLE ...?
O...
WHAT'S WRONG, TARO?
KOTARO...
...ISN'T THAT FAMOUS, HUH...
KANG
HUH?
STRANGE...
VISH
USA, LOOK OUT!
KANG
VISH

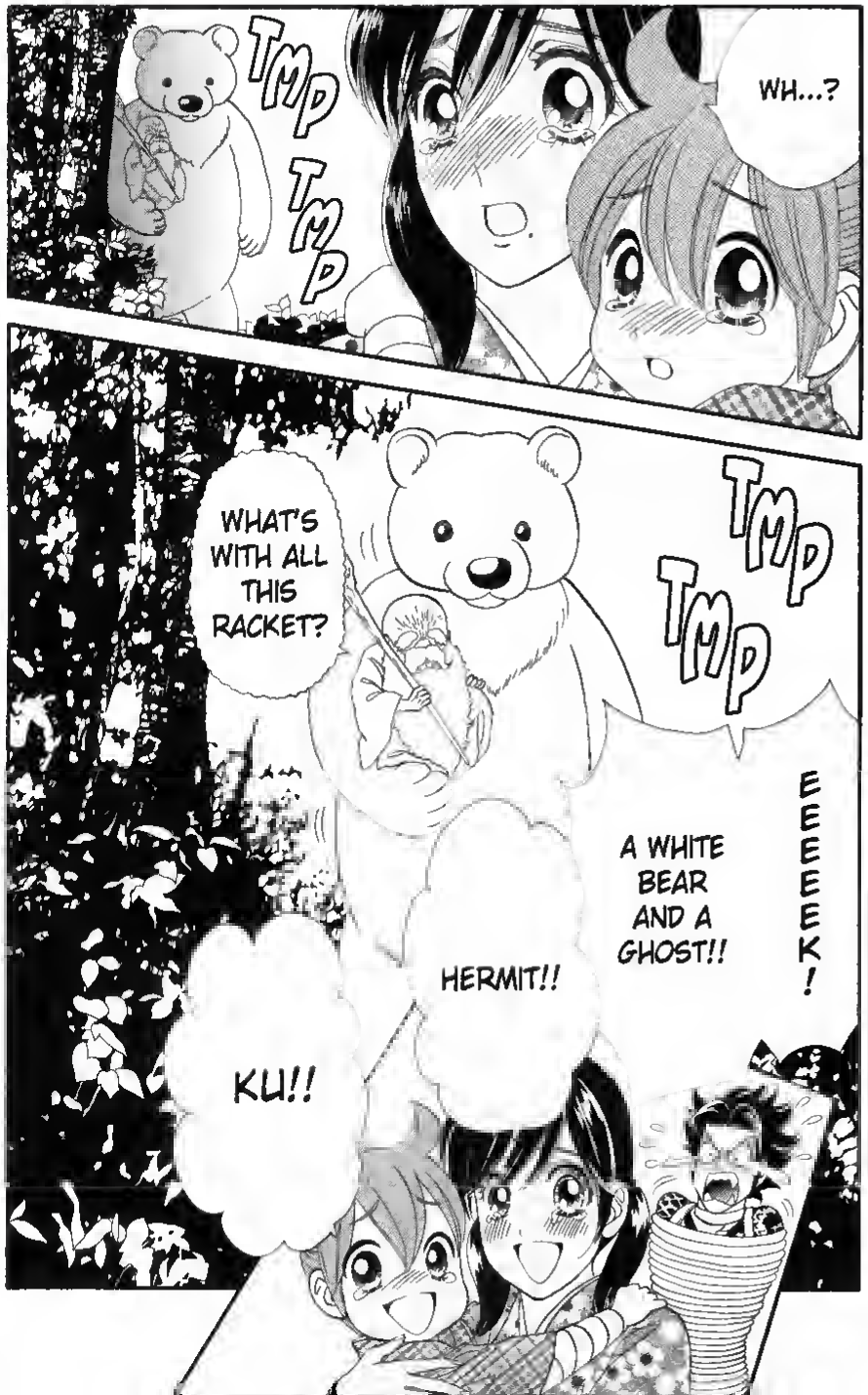
FWUMP
TARO ?!
I NEVER THOUGHT MY TARGET WOULD BE THIS CLOSE TO ME!
FWOM
IT MUST BE BECAUSE I LEAD...
...SUCH A MORAL LIFE!!

FWISH
WH...
WHAT'S...?
THG
AAAAH ...!
USAGI!

FWISH!!
AAGH!
WHAT IS THIS ...?
I CAN'T MOVE...
I... I'LL HELP USAGI...!!
KICK
OWW!
HMPH.
I...
I DON'T WANT DO DIE LIKE THIS...!!
YUKI...
YOU'RE FIRST!

HOW DARE YOU MAKE A FOOL OF...
...KOTARO FUMA!!
LET GO OF USA!!
LEAP
SHA
TARO, YOU'RE ...?!

...
GR...
KA AW
KA AW
WHAT ?!
SHH
UP
!!
FW OOSH


WH...?
TMP TMP TMP
WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS RACKET?
TMP TMP TMP
EEEEEK!
A WHITE BEAR AND A GHOST!!
HERMIT!!
KU!!

LOOM
AH...
AAGH...
GREAT-GRANDPA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY USAGI?
LOOM
GRANDPA!
MONSTERRRRRS...!!
WHO ARE YOU CALLING A MONSTER ?!
NRMP
NRMP
WE'RE NOT GHOSTS EITHER.
EVEN IF YOU TWO ARE GHOSTS, IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU...
HAVE WE GONE ON TO THE OTHER WORLD...?
USA ...

SNIFF SNIFF
WHY DIDN'T YOU COME TO SEE ME IF YOU WERE ALIVE THIS WHOLE TIME?!
WH... WHAT?
GREAT-GRANDPA, YOU MEANIE!!

...YOU'RE THE WAY YOU ARE RIGHT NOW?
BUT ISN'T THAT WHY...
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW TOUGH IT'S BEEN FOR ME...

WATCH ME GROW UP...
RIGHT NOW...
...BUT FATHER WOULDN'T LISTEN, SAYING HE WANTED TO WATCH YOU GROW UP.
I KEPT SAYING THAT WE SHOULD HAVE YOU COME HERE...
OH!
WAIT A MINUTE!

USAGI...
LONG TIME NO SEE!!

YOU BUILT A VILLAGE AT THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN!
EVERY-ONE, YOU WERE ALL ALIVE?!
GREAT ELDER...

WE KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU, USAGI.
HUH?
HOW DID YOU KNOW I'M AT OKAZAKI...?
YOU'VE BECOME SUCH A FINE NINJA...
I'VE HEARD ABOUT ALL YOUR GREAT WORK AT OKAZAKI.

I'M... SORRY...
HERMIT...
SNIFF...
MM...
TH...
THANK YOU, HERMIT...
I...I PROMISED... TO GIVE BIRTH TO... HANZO'S CHILDREN...
...AND TO COME AND SHOW THEM TO YOU...
BUT I COULDN'T FULFILL MY PROMISE...

THEN...
I HEARD THAT ALL THE HIGH-RANKING IGA NINJA WERE KILLED IN THE ATTACK...
I SIMPLY SWITCHED BODIES WITH THE DEAD.
DOES THAT MEAN HANZO IS ALIVE SOMEWHERE TOO?!
IF HE WERE ALIVE, THE FIRST PERSON HE'D WANT TO SEE WOULD BE YOU.
WHAT...?
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE...
SHA
HERE.
TAKE THIS.
THAT'S TRUE...

HA HA HA... THAT'S RIGHT...
WE'RE GOING TO SIT BACK AND ENJOY WHAT KIND OF COUNTRY HE'S GOING TO CREATE, RIGHT?
NOBUNAGA DIDN'T TAKE THE LAND FROM US. WE LENT IT TO HIM!!
YOU'RE WRONG, FATHER.
...SO GLAD I CAME TO SEE YOU...
I'M...
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME HERE...
YUKI...
SOB SOB
WAARGH
WAARGH

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, USAGI.
HE IS 200 YEARS OLD, AFTER ALL.
UH...
SWIP
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
TIMES CHANGE, AND SO DO PEOPLE.
NOBUNAGA TOOK THE LAND AND LIVELIHOOD THAT WE HAD BEEN PROTECTING...
...BUT MAYBE THAT WAS OUR DESTINY.

TH-
THUMP
OH...
PROTECT ODAWARA CASTLE WELL SO THAT SOMEBODY LIKE ME WON'T EVER BE ABLE TO SNEAK INSIDE AGAIN...
D... DON'T... DON'T WORRY ...?!
THE BLUE-PRINT FOR ODAWARA CASTLE...
DON'T WORRY. IT WON'T BE USED FOR ANYTHING BAD.
I'D NEVER TRUST A KUNOICHI'S SMILE!!
I...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
"MONSTER"... TCH. HOW RUDE!
I WONDER WHERE THE "IGA MONSTER" RUMOR CAME FROM...
KU'S FOOD...
DA
A
S
H
NEVER EVER EVER...!!
TMP
GOEMON PROBABLY STARTED THAT RUMOR.

PUP PUP
THIS...IS JUST SO SAD...
THIS...
I...I'M A NINJA TOO...
TARO...
HE SHOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH FOR KU'S FOOD.
FATHER, WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH HIM?
WAARGH
WAAARGH
LET TARO GO!
GRAND-PA!
SILENCE.
GRAB
I DON'T TASTE GOOD!
GAAAH
USAGI...
I DON'T WANT TO SEE PEOPLE DIE ANY-MORE...
I...
USAGI?!

GOEMON HAS BEEN STEALING THINGS AT THE CAPITAL.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "PUNISH" GOEMON...?
HIS VOICE IS DIFFERENT TOO...

GOEMON ...?!
A THIEF ?!
IT IS AGAINST THE CODE OF THE NINJA TO USE YOUR NINJUTSU SKILLS FOR YOUR OWN BENEFIT.
I MUST GO AND GUIDE GOEMON DOWN THE RIGHT PATH.

WHAAA!?
HUH?
WHO ARE YOU?
TANBA.
THE MASTER LOOKS SO GREAT IN DISGUISE... ♡
FATHER, WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO IN THAT GET-UP?

I'M GOING DOWN TO THE CAPITAL TO PUNISH GOEMON.
SANDAYU.
TAKE CARE OF THE VILLAGE FOR ME.

LET'S GO...
...GREAT-GRANDPA.
WAIT FOR ME...
DON'T CALL ME "GREAT-GRANDPA" AT THE CAPITAL!
GOEMON CAME SO OFTEN TO OKAZAKI TO SEE ME...
...BUT I REFUSED TO SEE HIM, SO THIS HAPPENED...

I'M GOING WITH YOU!!
GREAT-GRANDPA!
I'M OFF, BUT YOU CAN SPEND SOME TIME HERE, USAGI, AND...
GO BACK TO OKAZAKI FIRST!!
USAGI?!
SORRY, YUKI.
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.
THEN...
I'LL GO TOO!!
ME TOO!

LET'S GO!

LITTLE HANZO

B-BMP B-BMP
HANZO'S OLDER SISTER SUZUNE WAS EXTREMELY POPULAR.
I'LL GO OUT WITH YOU UNDER ONE CONDITION.
I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, SUZUNE !!
ALL RIGHT ...
HMM.
I WILL BECOME YOURS IF YOU DEFEAT MY YOUNG BROTHER HANZO!!
THOK
...
I HAVE NO NEED FOR MEN WHO ARE WEAKER THAN AN INFANT.
THOK
AAAGH!
WOW, HE DEFEATED AN ADULT! HE SURE WAS A SUPER-KID, HUH!
SUZUNE'S AMAZING FOR OTHER REASONS...

ZUFF
DOES YOUR LEG HURT, GREAT-GRANDPA ?!
NAH. IT'S NOT ME...
USAGI. DON'T RUN.
ZUFF
ZUFF
OH...
IF YOU GO TOO FAST, YUKI'S NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO KEEP UP...
USA...
WAIT FOR ME...
FIDGET
FIDGET
IT'S MY FAULT THAT HE'S BECOME A THIEF!!
ARE YOU THAT WORRIED ABOUT GOEMON?
OF COURSE I AM!

IF IT'S REALLY TRUE THAT GOEMON HAS BECOME A THIEF...
USAGI... YOU WANT TO LEAVE RIGHT THIS MINUTE ?!
EVERY-ONE, I'LL SEE YOU LATER!!
...THEN I HAVE TO STOP HIM!!
ZUFF
ZUFF

...HAVE ANY REGRETS ANYMORE.
I DON'T WANT TO...
TH... THAT WOULD BE NICE...
HEEZE
HEEZE
I'M SORRY, YUKI.
WE'LL WALK SLOWER FOR YOU...
HEEZE
HEEZE
I...
I'M SORRY TO BE SO SLOW...
...BUT I ALWAYS HAD HIM LEAVE...
STILL, GOEMON KEPT TRYING TO SEE ME...
NOT UNTIL MAMEZO BECAME A QUALIFIED NINJA...
I DIDN'T WANT TO DO THAT.
...I KNEW I'D DEPEND ON HIM.
IF I SAW HIM...
WHY DIDN'T YOU SEE HIM?
BUT I WOULDN'T SEE HIM AND HAD HIM LEAVE.
YOUR FAULT?
...GOEMON CAME BY TO SEE ME AT LORD IEYASU'S CASTLE.
AFTER IGA WAS ATTACKED...

THE CAPITAL
THE NEXT DAY
WE'VE HAD SEVERAL BREAK-INS IN A ROW NOW...
A THIEF BROKE INTO A SHOP IN HOSOKAWA LAST NIGHT.
A NINJA? YOU MEAN THOSE IGA NINJA THAT LORD NOBUNAGA ERADICATED?!
THERE'S A RUMOR THAT THIS THIEF IS A NINJA SINCE HE'S VERY AGILE AND USES STRANGE TRICKS.
USAGI.
DON'T SHOW YOUR EMOTIONS ON YOUR FACE.
HOW CAN I SLEEP IN PEACE WHEN A HORRENDOUS MAN LIKE THAT IS IN THE CAPITAL?!

CALL ME TANZO.
GREAT-GRANDPA, WHAT...?
TA...
TANZO, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE TO LOOK FOR HIM?
WELL NOW...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
食事処
HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIND HIM WITHOUT A SINGLE CLUE?!
SHOCK
HUH...
NOPE!
HE'S ALREADY MOVED ON TO SAKAI.

I SOUNDED SO COOL.
HA
TARO...

UM...
LET'S HEAD FOR SAKAI AT ONCE...
SHOOM

THAT PUNK.
OH...
THE CUSTOMER THAT JUST LEFT SAID YOU'D PAY FOR HIS FOOD TOO...

MNGH
MNGH
SHUT UP AND LISTEN.
GLATTER
TARO?!

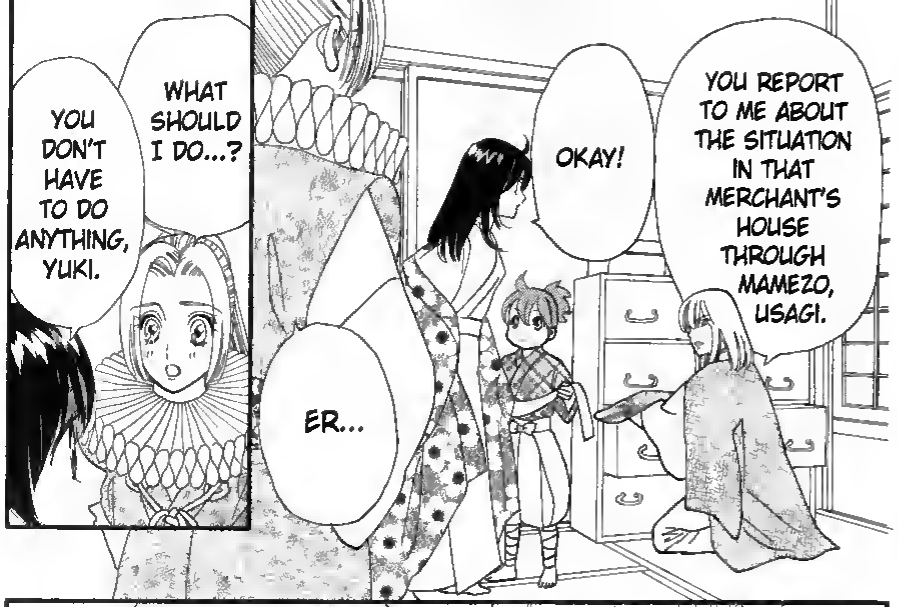
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT INFORMATION?
...AND HAS ALREADY MOVED HIS ACTIVITIES TO SAKAI.
HE'S BROKEN INTO MOST OF THE SHOPS AT THE CAPITAL...

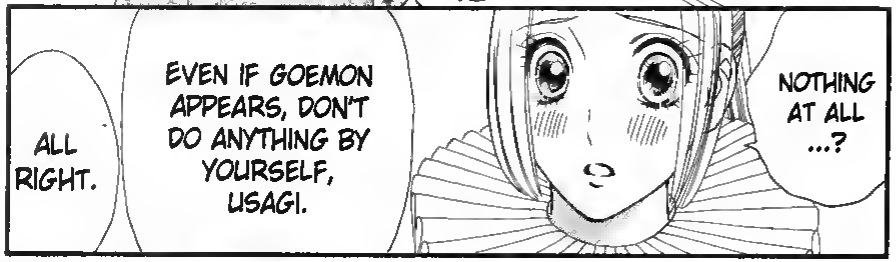
GOOD LUCK.

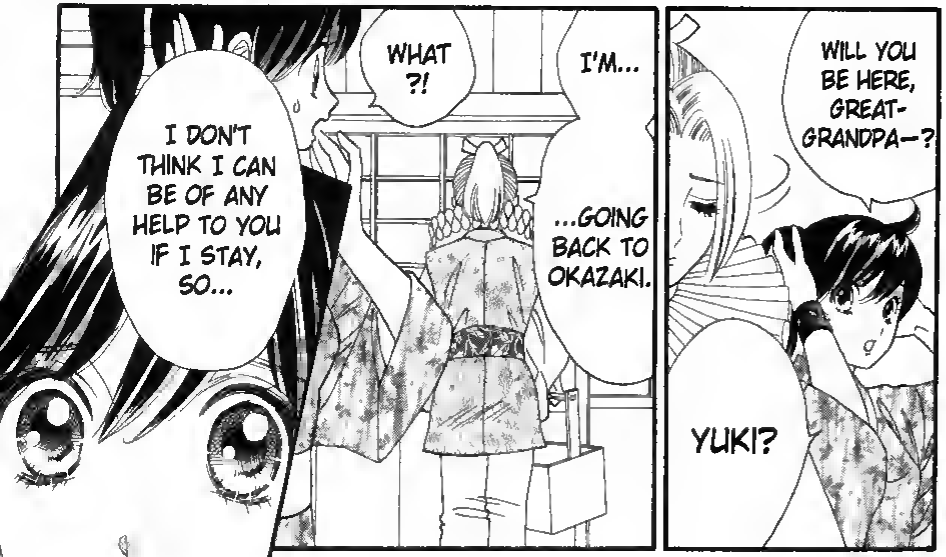
THEN I CAN WORK UNDER-COVER THERE!

KLIK
IT ONLY TOOK ME HALF A DAY TO FIND THAT OUT.

A CLOTH MERCHANT WHO WILL LIKELY BECOME A TARGET WAS LOOKING FOR A HOUSEMAID...
SHA


YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING, YUKI.
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
ER...
OKAY!
YOU REPORT TO ME ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THAT MERCHANT'S HOUSE THROUGH MAMEZO, USAGI.

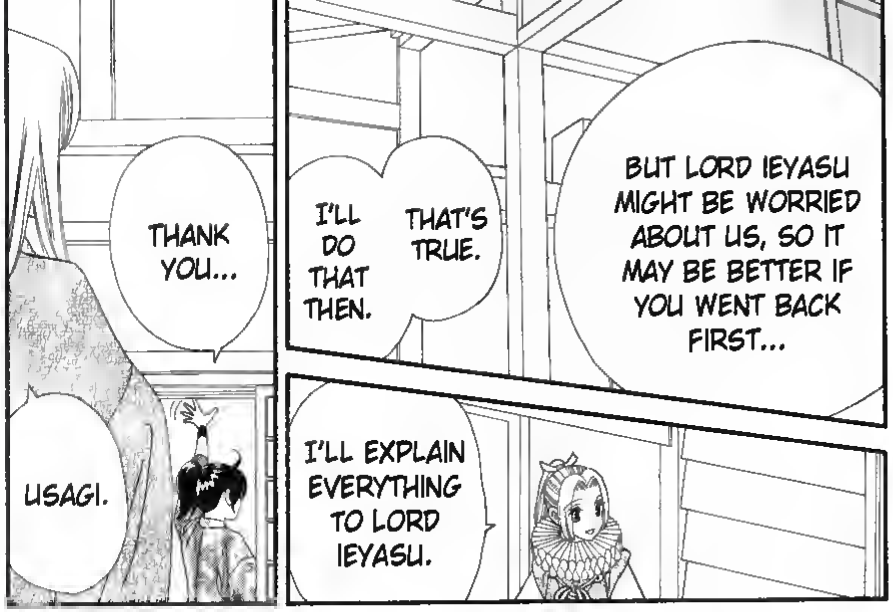

ALL RIGHT.
EVEN IF GOEMON APPEARS, DON'T DO ANYTHING BY YOURSELF, USAGI.
NOTHING AT ALL ...?

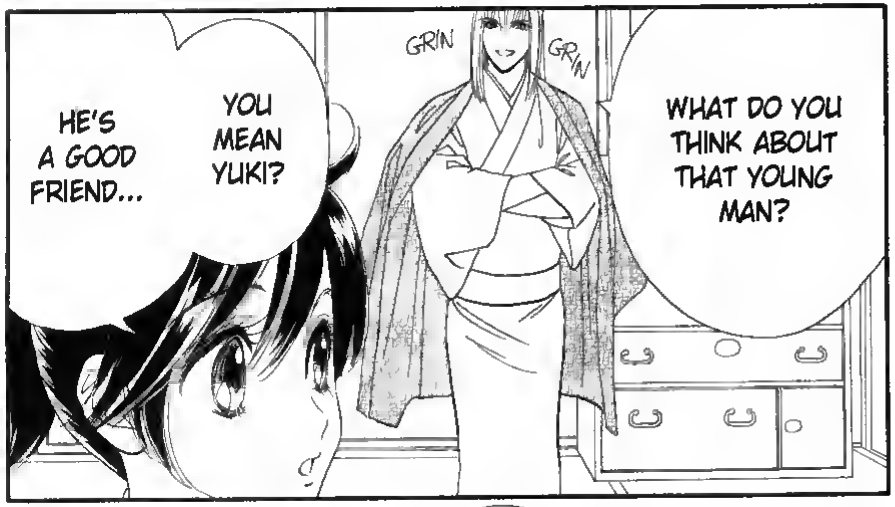

I DON'T THINK I CAN BE OF ANY HELP TO YOU IF I STAY, SO...
WHAT ?!
I'M... ...GOING BACK TO OKAZAKI.
WILL YOU BE HERE, GREAT-GRANDPA—?
YUKI?

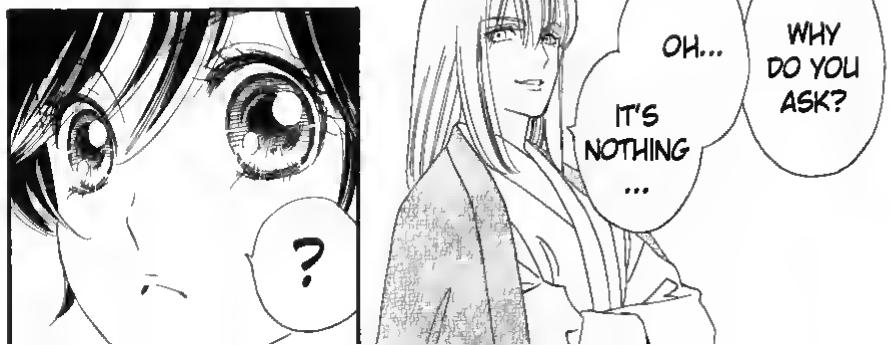
THE NEXT DAY
SAKAI
SO THIS IS THE CLOTH MERCHANT WHO MIGHT BE GOEMON'S NEXT TARGET...

LET'S HEAD DOWN TO OUR HIDEOUT.
LOOKS LIKE A TYPICAL RICH MERCHANT'S RESIDENCE.

THIS IS A HOUSE THAT WAS USED BY NINJA DURING ASSIGNMENTS.
I SEE.


THANK YOU...
USAGI.
I'LL DO THAT THEN.
THAT'S TRUE.
BUT LORD IEYASU MIGHT BE WORRIED ABOUT US, SO IT MAY BE BETTER IF YOU WENT BACK FIRST...
I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO LORD IEYASU.


HE'S A GOOD FRIEND...
YOU MEAN YUKI?
GRIN
GRIN
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT YOUNG MAN?


?
OH... IT'S NOTHING ...
WHY DO YOU ASK?

...THAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO REUNITE WITH GREAT-GRANDPA AND GRANDPA!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU DRAGGED ME OUT HERE...
THAT'S NOT TRUE!!
I'M... ...REALLY GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR THAT!!
HMM...
USAGI...

M...MY NAME IS USAGI...
YOUR JOB DUTIES ARE TO CLEAN, WASH, AND COOK!!
YES, SIR...
OH...
HEY, SLOW-POKE!
HURRY UP AND GET TO WORK!!
WHAT DID YOU SAY...?!
YOU AWFUL JERK...
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...

I'M SUPPOSED TO DO ALL OF THAT BY MYSELF?!
SHOCK
HEY...

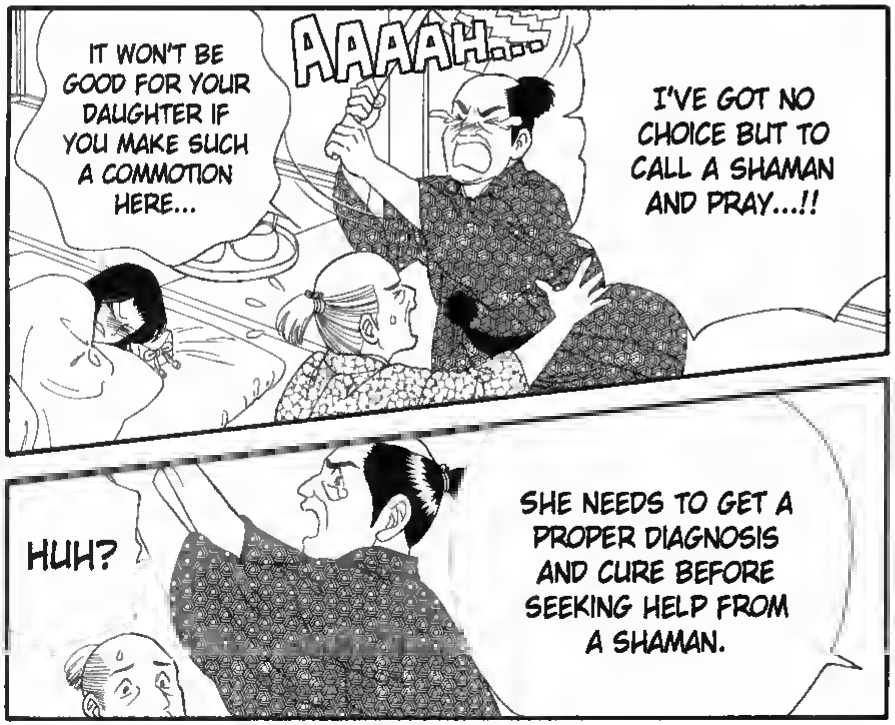
SHOOOOCK
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY, DOCTOR?!
WHAT?!
HM?
SCRUB
SCRUB
NO WONDER EVERYONE'S BEEN QUITTING THIS JOB...

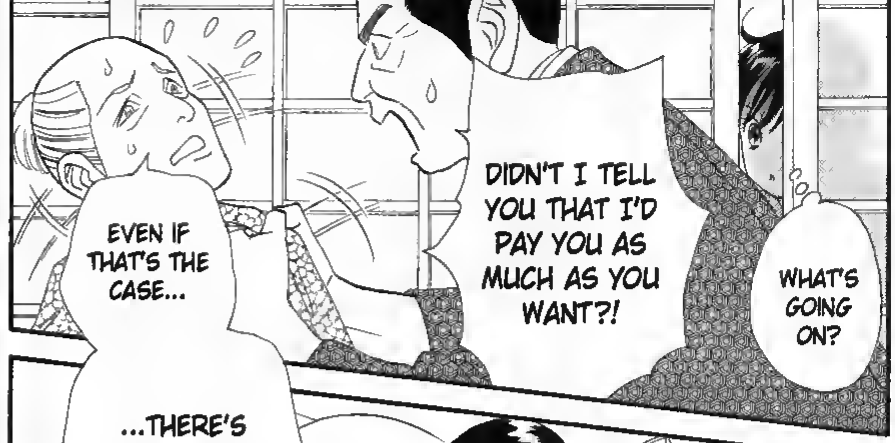
I CAME ABOUT THE HOUSEMAID JOB...
OH NO...
YES?
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
EXCUSE ME.

WAAAARGH
I'M SORRY...
I...
FROWN
HUMPH.
SO YOU'RE NOT A CUSTOMER!

I'VE GOT MANY OTHER PEOPLE TO CHOOSE FROM!!
GO RIGHT AHEAD.
WAAAARGH
I'M QUITTING THIS HORRIBLE JOB...!!
ZWAK

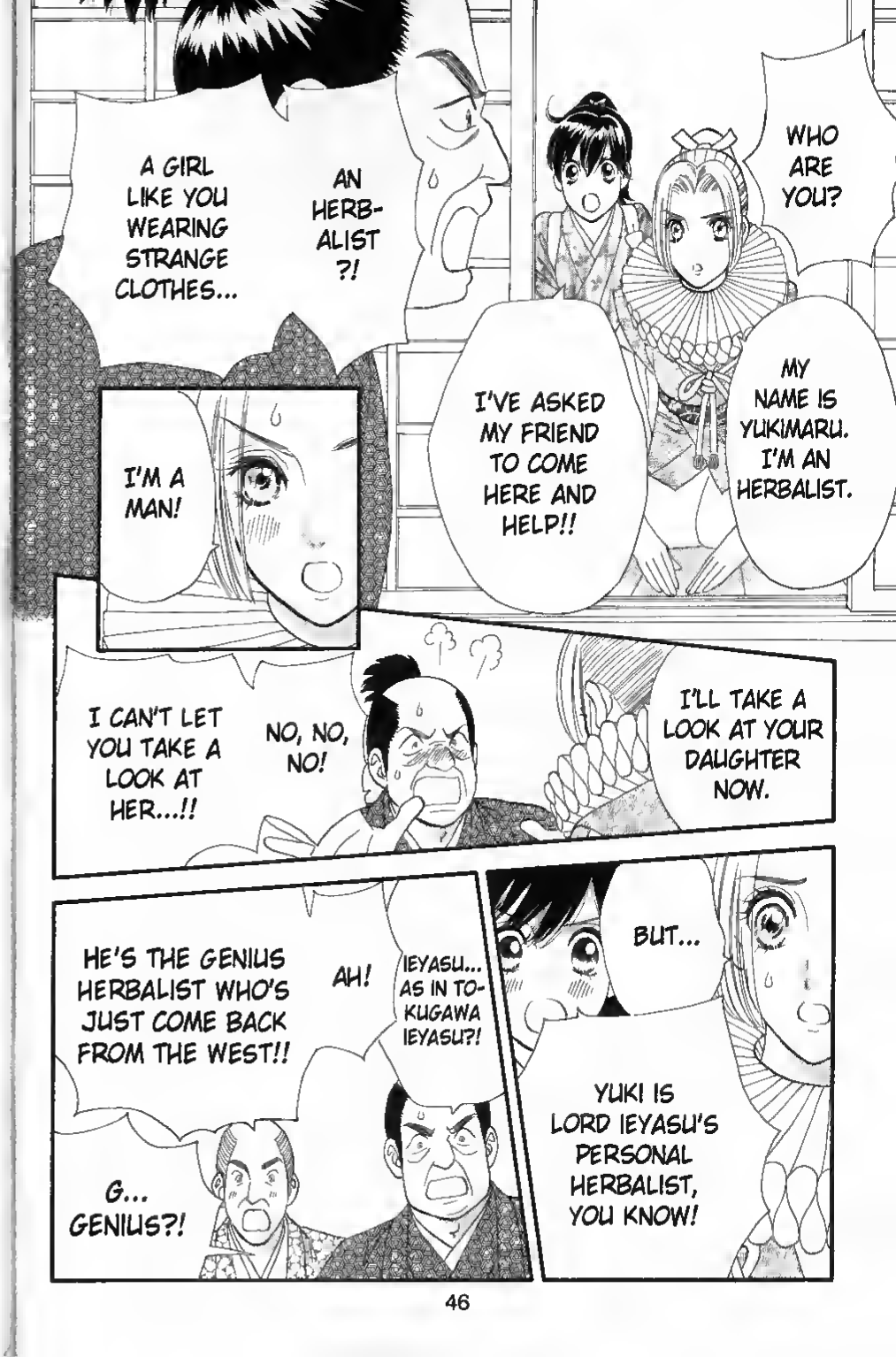
POP
WHAT'S WRONG, USA?!
OWW...
MAMEZO!


AAAAH...
IT WON'T BE GOOD FOR YOUR DAUGHTER IF YOU MAKE SUCH A COMMOTION HERE...
I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO CALL A SHAMAN AND PRAY...!!
HUH?
SHE NEEDS TO GET A PROPER DIAGNOSIS AND CURE BEFORE SEEKING HELP FROM A SHAMAN.


DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT I'D PAY YOU AS MUCH AS YOU WANT?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE...
...THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO FOR HER...

ZWAK
UM... CAN I TAKE A LOOK AT HER?
WHAT ?!
I'M ACTUALLY AN HERBALIST, SO...
DON'T LIE!!
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BE AN HERBALIST!
KICK
GA AH!

...MUST BE BECAUSE OF THE SWELLING ON HER STOMACH.
THIS...
URRRGH...
YES!!
USAGI, CAN YOU BOIL ME SOME WATER?
I'LL PERFORM AN OPERATION TO REMOVE THE SWELLING.
I ALREADY KNOW THAT!!
BUT HOW ARE YOU GOING TO HEAL HER?!
SHA
IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO HELP YOUR DAUGHTER.
AN...AN OPERATION ?!
HEY...
TUG
YOU...
IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO MY DAUGHTER, I'LL SHOW YOU NO MERCY! EVEN IF YOU ARE TOKUGAWA'S HERBALIST!
GRAB


A GIRL LIKE YOU WEARING STRANGE CLOTHES...
AN HERB-ALIST ?!
WHO ARE YOU?
I'VE ASKED MY FRIEND TO COME HERE AND HELP!!
MY NAME IS YUKIMARU. I'M AN HERBALIST.
I'M A MAN!
I CAN'T LET YOU TAKE A LOOK AT HER...!!
NO, NO, NO!
I'LL TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR DAUGHTER NOW.
HE'S THE GENIUS HERBALIST WHO'S JUST COME BACK FROM THE WEST!!
AH!
IEYASU... AS IN TO-KUGAWA IEYASU?!
G... GENIUS?!
BUT...
YUKI IS LORD IEYASU'S PERSONAL HERBALIST, YOU KNOW!

KSH
KSH
KSH
USAGI.
CAN YOU WIPE THE SWEAT OFF MY FACE?
SHA
THANKS.
OF COURSE!
...WHEN HE'S DOING HIS WORK...
YUKI'S SO MANLY...
SHUU
P...
PLEASE...
I'M HERE TO HELP YOUR DAUGHTER.

EEEEEK!!
TH...
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
WHAT WAS THAT?!
IT'S FROM THE RICE MERCHANT'S HOUSE NEXT DOOR!!
COULD IT BE...?!
FLASH
!!
ZWAK
THIEF !!

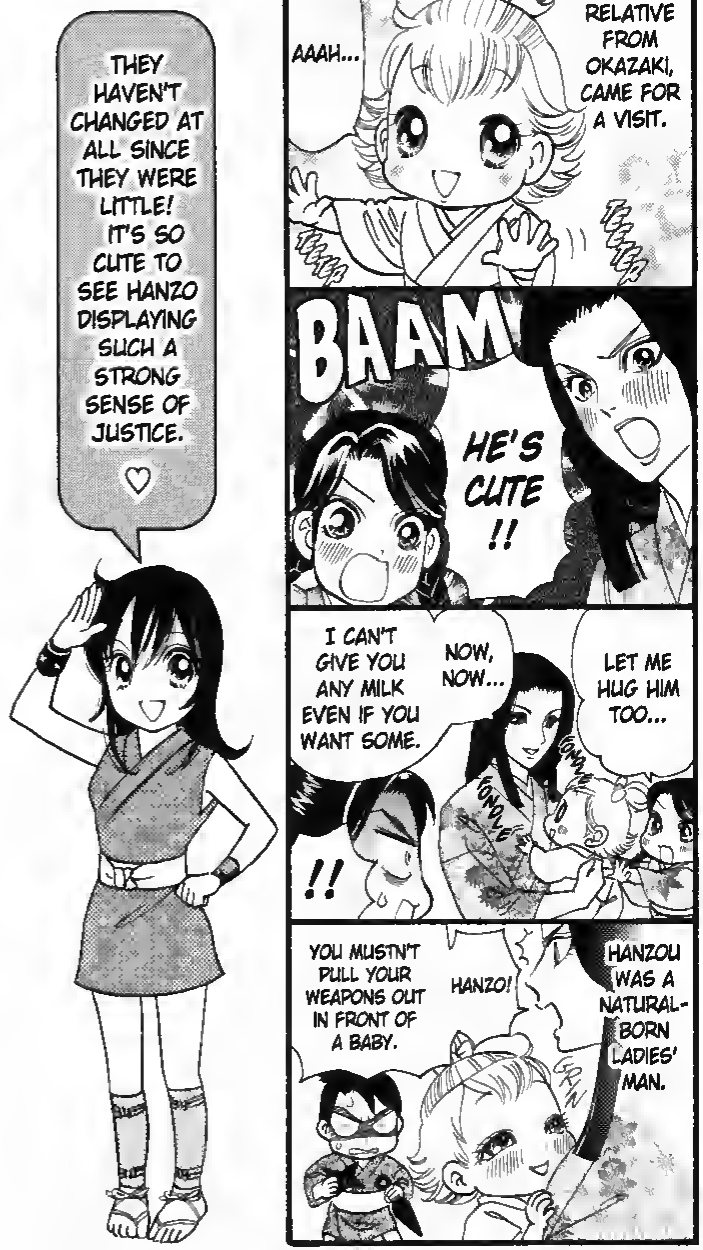
PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO TREAT HER WOUND WITH THE PAIN RELIEVER AND ANTISEPTIC.
YES.
ZZZ..
Y...
IS...
IS MY DAUGHTER OKAY?!
WHAT IS IT ?!
GRAB
YOU!!
TH... THAT'S MY JOB...
WAARGH
YOU SAVED MY DAUGHTER'S LIFE...
MARRY ?!
WHY DON'T YOU MARRY INTO MY FAMILY?!

SINCE YOU'VE SEEN MY FACE...
...I CAN'T LET YOU LIVE...!!

THIEF!
TCH...
YOU'RE STAYING RIGHT HERE!!
DAMN IT...
KLATTER
SHHK

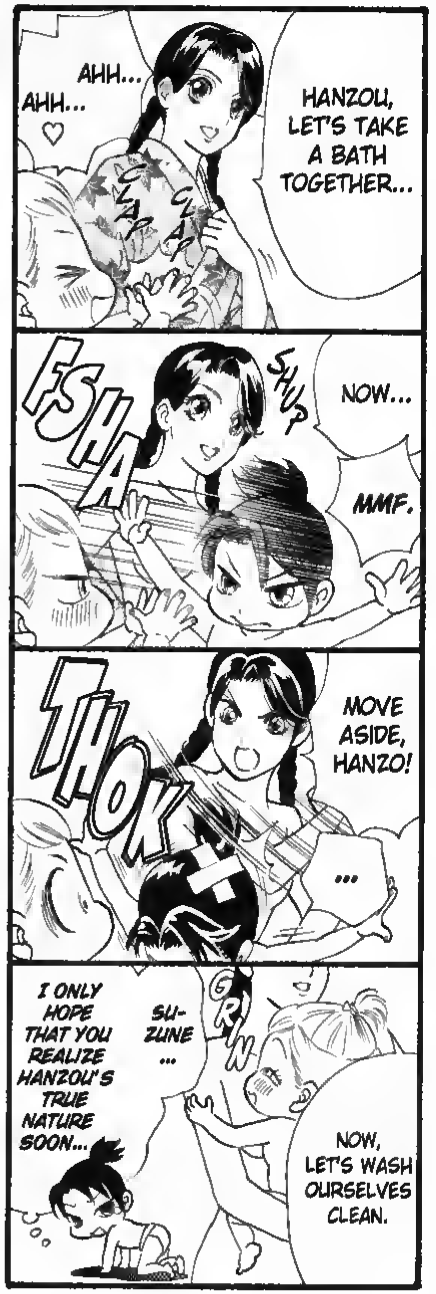
LET'S GO!

LITTLE HANZO


THEY HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL SINCE THEY WERE LITTLE! IT'S SO CUTE TO SEE HANZO DISPLAYING SUCH A STRONG SENSE OF JUSTICE. ♡
AAAH...
HANZOU, A RELATIVE FROM OKAZAKI, CAME FOR A VISIT.
BAAM
HE'S CUTE !!
I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY MILK EVEN IF YOU WANT SOME.
NOW, NOW...
LET ME HUG HIM TOO...
!!
YOU MUSTN'T PULL YOUR WEAPONS OUT IN FRONT OF A BABY.
HANZO!
HANZOU WAS A NATURAL-BORN LADIES' MAN.

LET'S GO!

LITTLE HANZO



I'M SURE HE'LL APPROVE ONCE I PAY HIM!!
I HAVE A JOB AS LORD IEYASU'S HERBALIST...
Let go
I CAN'T MARRY INTO YOUR FAMILY!!
I'M SAYING I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU MY FORTUNE AND MY DAUGHTER, SO WHY AREN'T YOU PLEASED?!
THEY'RE STILL AT IT...
...ALREADY IN LOVE WITH SOMEBODY ELSE!!
I'M...

GOEMON !!
URGH...

DID GOEMON DO ALL OF THIS ?!
DID...?
WHERE'S THE THIEF ?!
H...
HE GOT AWAY...

YUKI IS MY FIANCÉ!!
SO KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF MY YUKI!!
WH...
WHAAAAAT?
YOU'RE FIRED ...!!

AAGH!
SOMEBODY ELSE?!
UM...
WHO IS IT?!
SHAKE
WHO'S THIS OTHER PERSON YOU'VE GOT IN MIND?!
UH...
SHAKE
FOR GOD'S SAKE, THAT'S ENOUGH!!

I'M SORRY.
I THOUGHT THAT GUY WOULDN'T GIVE UP UNLESS I TOLD HIM THAT...
O...
OH NO, THAT'S FINE...
ACTUALLY, I NEVER KNEW THAT THERE WAS SOMEONE YOU WERE INTERESTED IN...
HUH?!
WHO IS IT?
IS IT SOMEBODY I KNOW?
TELL ME.
I CAN'T TELL YOU!!
VIP
WHY NOT?
OH NO...
I SHOULD HAVE SAID, "I DON'T HAVE ANYBODY I'M INTERESTED IN" INSTEAD!
HMPH...
WE'RE HOME!

YUKI...
YOUR FACE LOOKS REALLY RED. ARE YOU OKAY?
HUH?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO ...?
AND WE COULDN'T CATCH GOEMON EITHER...
GAAAH ...
HE WAS SO ANNOYING!
SHUUU
I THINK IT'S RATHER COLD TODAY...
R... REALLY?
IT MUST BE BECAUSE IT'S HOT TODAY...
OH.
TH...THAT I WAS YOUR FIANCÉ...
WHAT YOU SAID BACK THERE, USAGI...
BLUSH
OH...
UMM...

SNIFF
I'M SO GLAD!
YOU'RE ALIVE, YURI...
HELP ME...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, USAGI...?!
"OUR" HIDEOUT...?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN OUR HIDE-OUT...?
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
SWIP
AAAGH!
WHAT?
THAT OLD MAN ?!
THAT GUY'S MY GREAT-GRANDPA. HE'S IN DISGUISE...
YURI...
ZWAK
I'M HOME...

GET OUT !!
YOU PERVERT !!
WAIT, WAIT!
LISTEN TO ME !!
HUH?
I'M GOING TO DIE...
FLAIL FLAIL
YURI ?!

WERE YOU TWO USING THIS HIDEOUT TOO?!
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING!!
GOEMON.
YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE, DON'T YOU?
BAM

HEEZE
HEEZE
...GOEMON!
WELCOME BACK...
GOEMON !!
WHAT'RE YOU...?

IT'S MONEY WE'RE GOING TO USE TO GET OUR LAND BACK!
I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR THE SURVIVING NINJA AND REBUILD IGA...
SLAP

ACK!
SHUP
...THE THINGS GOEMON STOLE?!
ARE...
...THESE...
THIS ISN'T FOR MY OWN BENEFIT.
YOU MUSTN'T USE NIN-JUTSU FOR—
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE CODE OF THE NINJA?

DON'T YOU WANT TO GET BACK AT NOBUNAGA FOR TAKING OUR LAND AND KILLING OUR PEOPLE?!
REVENGE ONLY BEGETS REVENGE.

MASTER ...!!
...AND RETURN ALL THE MONEY YOU'VE STOLEN.
YOU NEED TO GET RID OF YOUR FOOLISH DESIRE FOR REVENGE...

HEY...!
DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK YOU'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO FACE NOBUNAGA...
...WITH JUST A HANDFUL OF MONEY AND SURVIVORS?!
MAS-TER...
AREN'T YOU FRUSTRATED ABOUT GOING DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT?

GOEMON...
LET USAGI TAKE CARE OF IT.
I'M SORRY...
I'M SORRY I KEPT SENDING YOU AWAY!!
YOU CAME TO SEE ME SO MANY TIMES...

GREAT-GRANDPA, DON'T!!
SHING
IF YOU WON'T LISTEN TO ME...
...I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO CUT YOU DOWN, RIGHT HERE...
TCH...
ZWAK
GOEMON!!
TUG
GOEMON...
YOU TWO STAY HERE.
WAIT...

SQUEEZE

I KNEW YOU TWO WERE DOING WELL.
THAT'S OKAY.

GOEMON...
SNIFF

YOU CAN HUG ME IF YOU WANT.
LOOK...

...BUT DON'T STEAL ANYMORE.
USAGI...
I'LL STOP STEALING...
...IF YOU MARRY ME.

HAVE YOU...
...STOPPED CRYING?
UH-HUH...

I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVE IGA, GOEMON...

...I WOULD ALWAYS HUG GOEMON FROM THE BACK IF I WAS WORRIED OR SCARED.
EVER SINCE I WAS SMALL...
I'VE BEEN DOING IT SINCE I WAS BORN.

MY...
...HAPPINESS...?
LET ME PROTECT YOU...
...NOW THAT YOU'VE LOST HANZO...!!

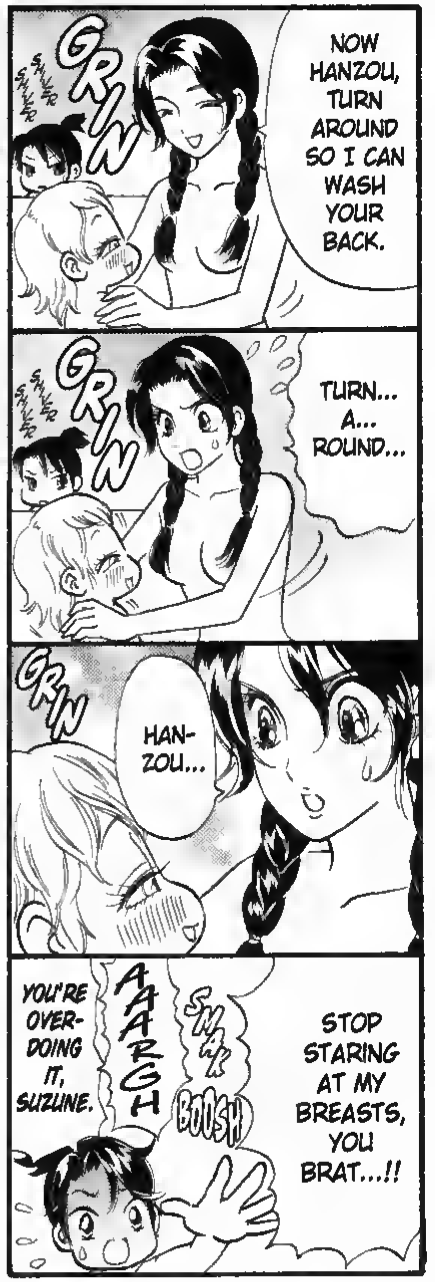
SHA
WHAT?
YOUR HAPPINESS...
...IS THE VERY SOURCE OF MY STRENGTH.

...HAVE DREAMS OF YOU ONE MORE TIME...

LET ME...
PANT
PANT
HUFF
HUFF

LET'S GO!

LITTLE HANZO



...
JUST... THINK ABOUT IT.
HEARING THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN MUST BE A LOT TO TAKE IN.
I'M SORRY.

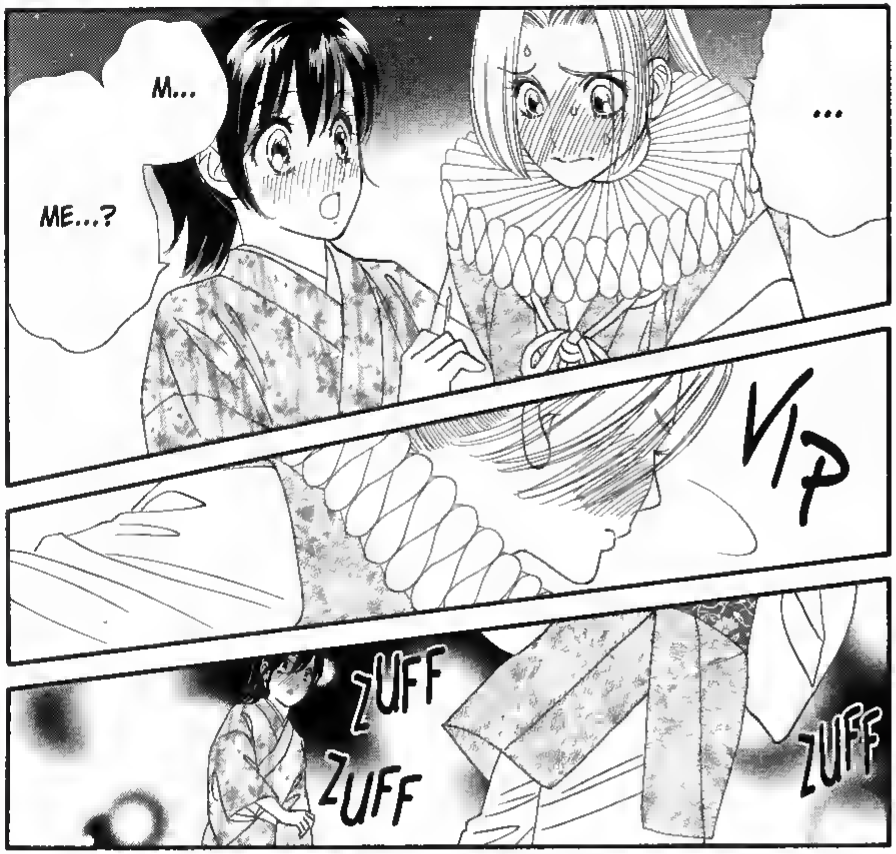
ZUFF

AGH!
YUKI...
I...I DIDN'T MEAN TO EAVESDROP, REALLY...
THAT'S OKAY.

"I'LL STOP STEALING IF YOU'LL MARRY ME."
BUT...

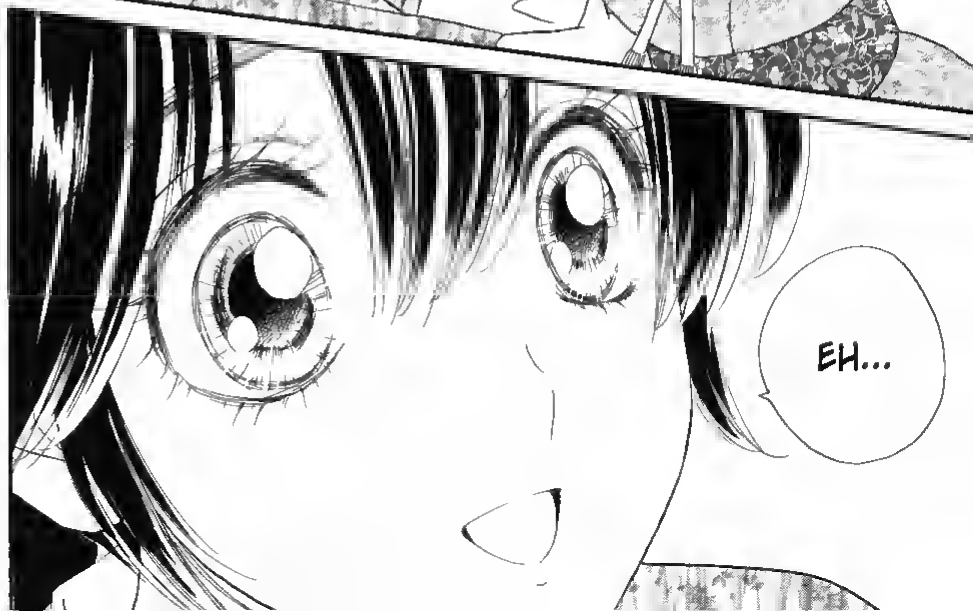
LIKE WRITING HER A LOVE LETTER ...
...OR ASKING HER TO COME OUTSIDE SO THAT YOU CAN TELL HER PERSONALLY.
HELP ?!
I...I HAVEN'T...
THEN I'LL HELP YOU WITH IT.
DID YOU TELL HER YET?
YOU SAID BEFORE THAT THERE'S SOMEONE YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH.
HUH?!
SO TELL ME WHO IT IS...
YOU HAVE TO THINK ABOUT HOW YOU WANT TO TELL HER DEPENDING ON WHO SHE IS.
TELL HER...?
T... T...
COME ON, YOU CAN TELL ME...
...

H...HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT GOEMON, USAGI?
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
SIGH...
GOEMON'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE A FAMILY MEMBER TO ME...
...SO I REALLY CAN'T IMAGINE US BEING MARRIED...
I...I SEE...
BY THE WAY, YUKI...


M...
ME...?
...
VIP
ZUFF
ZUFF
ZUFF

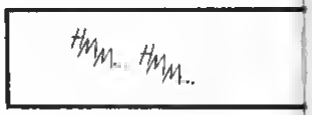
NO WAY...

IT'S YOU, USAGI!!
COME ON...


EH...

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW INSENSITIVE I WAS TO HIM...
I'LL HELP YOU.
I...
...NEVER THOUGHT I WAS THE ONE YUKI WAS IN LOVE WITH...

WHAT SHOULD I DO...?


HMM... HMM...

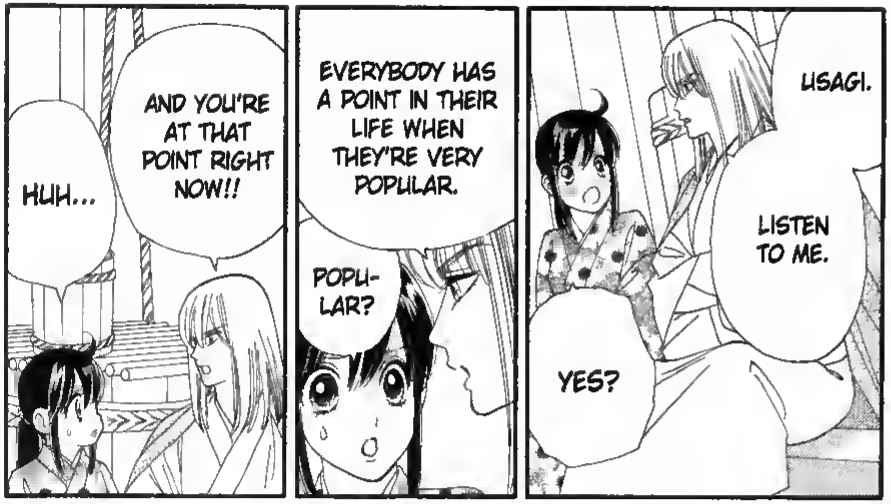
YOU WOKE UP PRETTY EARLY, USAGI.
AH.
SIGH...
OH

WHERE'S GOEMON?!
HOW COME YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAME BACK?
SHAME
SHAME
I...
I DON'T KNOW...

FORGET ABOUT GOEMON AND GO TO SLEEP!!
SHUT UP.
WHAT ?!

WELCOME BACK!!
...
OH?
DAZED

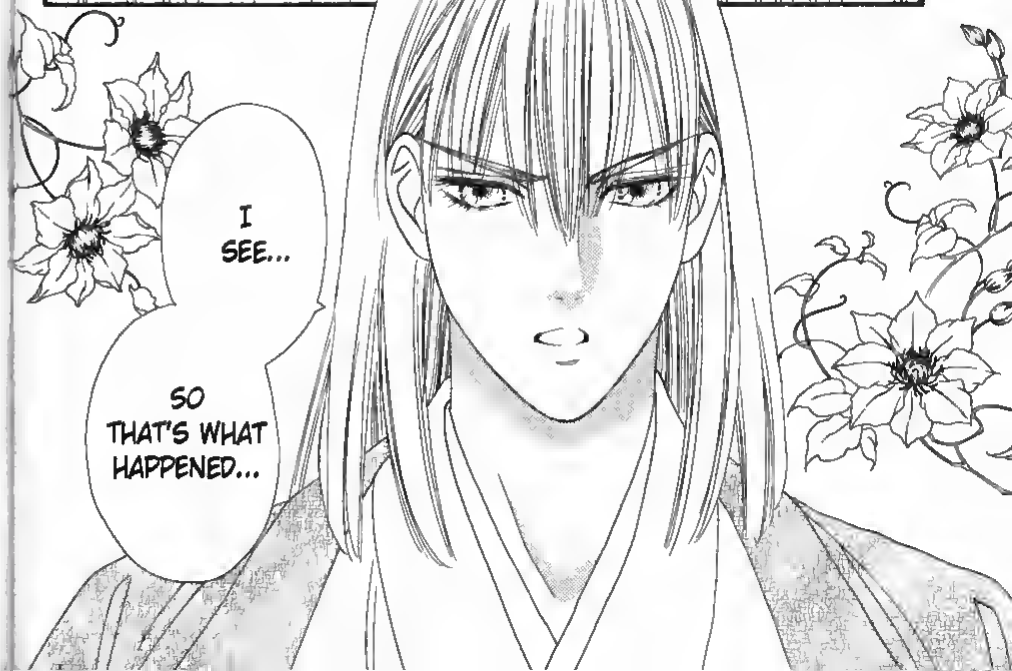
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
ZZZ...
ZZZ...


HUH...
AND YOU'RE AT THAT POINT RIGHT NOW!!
POPU-LAR?
EVERYBODY HAS A POINT IN THEIR LIFE WHEN THEY'RE VERY POPULAR.
YES?
LISTEN TO ME.
USAGI.

THE ONLY PERSON I'M IN LOVE WITH IS HANZO!!
BUT I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT!
HURRAY, YOU'RE POPULAR!!
ENJOY IT, USAGI!

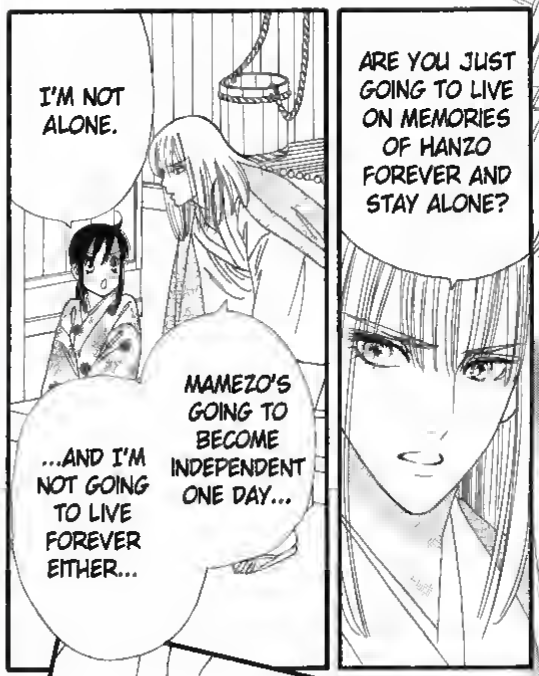
HE'S RIGHT IN HERE!!
THUMP
THUMP
BUT HE'S NO LONGER AROUND, IS HE?

...
UH-HUH...
UH...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN LAST NIGHT?
I COULDN'T SLEEP...
YOUR EYES ARE RED.


SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED...
I SEE...

I CAN'T...
...HAVE PEACE OF MIND UNTIL YOU'RE WITH SOMEBODY...

LET'S EAT.
PEACE OF MIND...?


I'M NOT ALONE.
...AND I'M NOT GOING TO LIVE FOREVER EITHER...
MAMEZO'S GOING TO BECOME INDEPENDENT ONE DAY...
ARE YOU JUST GOING TO LIVE ON MEMORIES OF HANZO FOREVER AND STAY ALONE?

URK!
KRAK

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE OFF THAT DISGUISE?
GREAT-GRANDPA...
M...
MY BACK...
NO WAY!

HANZO...
...WILL ALWAYS BE IN HERE...

USAGI...
Y...
...YES?!
TH-THUMP
I'M SORRY FOR BEING SO INSENSITIVE TO YOU, YUKI!!
LAST NIGHT...
...I SAID IT UNDER PRESSURE, BUT...
I WANT TO TELL HIM THAT, BUT I CAN'T...
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
VIP

SHAK
YUKI...
COULD YOU COME OUT HERE FOR A MINUTE?
USAGI...
S... SURE.
DON'T PINCH ME!
WHAT KIND OF DISGUISE IS THIS?
PEACE OF MIND, HUH...?

I...
...ALWAYS WANTED TO TELL YOU.
NOT UNDER PRESSURE...
...BUT IN A PROPER MANNER...
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT YOU TO GO OUT WITH ME OR MARRY ME OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT...
DON'T WORRY!!
I...
I...

I...
...LOVE YOU, USAGI!!

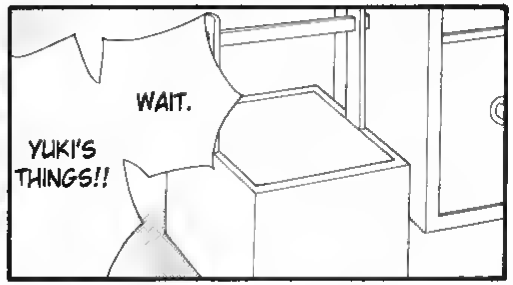
USAGI...
JUST TREAT ME THE SAME AS YOU'VE ALWAYS TREATED ME, EVEN AFTER WE'RE BACK IN OKAZAKI.
AND I'LL DO THE SAME!
OH...
I'M HEADING BACK TO OKAZAKI FIRST.
ZUFF
ZUFF
YUKI...
WELCOME HOME, USA...
OOH... WHAT PRETTY FLOWERS... ♪
YUKI GAVE THEM TO ME.
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN PUT THEM IN?

I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW HOW I FELT.
YUKI...
THANK YOU...

IT'S THE TOWEL YOU GAVE YUKI BEFORE HE WENT ABROAD...
GOOD LUCK, YUK
HE'S...
"THIS WAY, YOU CAN BE WITH US ALL THE TIME."
...HAD IT WITH HIM ALL THIS TIME...

SHOULD I TAKE IT TO HIM?
IT'S OKAY.
I'LL GO!!

HE DECIDED TO RETURN TO OKAZAKI...
WHERE'S YUKIMARU?


WAIT.
YUKI'S THINGS!!

USA!!
WHUP
AAAGH!

USA, LOOK AT THIS.
HEY...
SHOOT...

DASH
USA?!
YUKI!
YUKI...
YUKI!!
"I LOVE YOU, USAGI!"
YUKI...

YUKI...
ALL THIS TIME...
"YOU'VE GOT MANY FRIENDS HERE TO HELP YOU, USAGI."
"YOU CAN FALL APART! I'LL SUPPORT YOU!"

USAGI...
WILL YOU...
...MAKE ME YOUR WIFE?
MY...
...WIFE ?!
NOD

Tail of the Moon

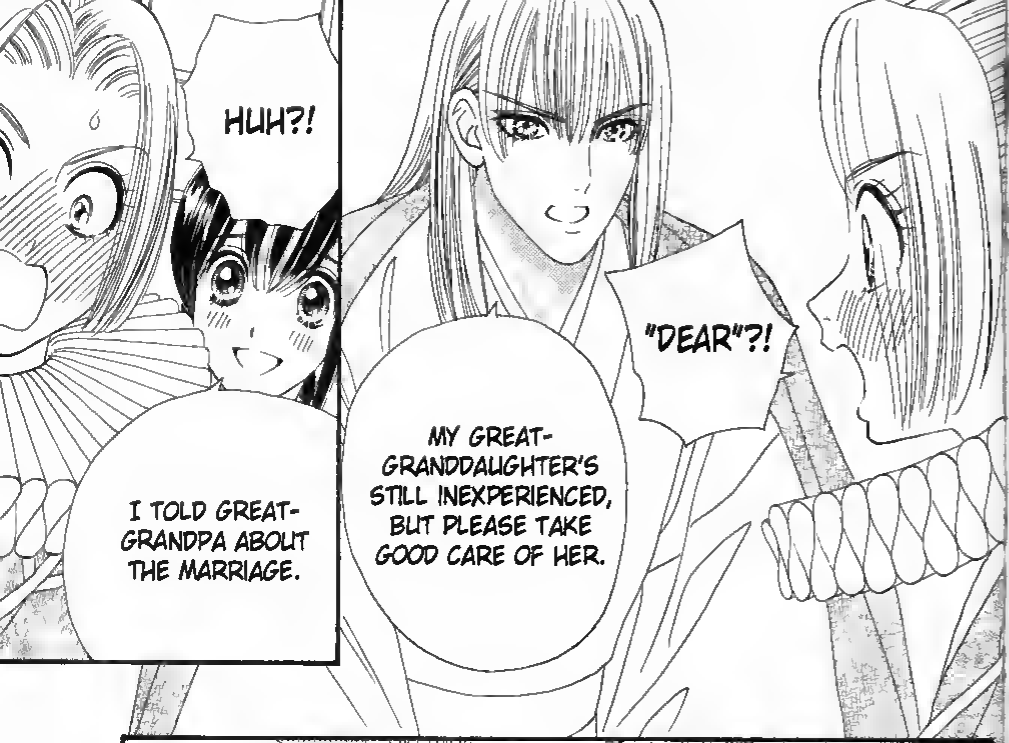
Chapter 89

LET'S GO!

LITTLE HANZO

SUZUNE, I'LL MAKE SURE HANZOU LEARNS HIS LESSON, SO PLEASE FORGIVE HIM FOR NOW.
SCREECH
SUZUNE'S PAINFUL PUNISHMENT CONTINUED AFTER SHE REALIZED HANZOU'S TRUE PERSONALITY (LECHY BABY)...
WAARGH
SUZUNE'S WORDS WERE JUST AS PAINFUL AS HER ACTIONS.
SHOCK
YOU STARE AT ME LIKE THAT AGAIN AND I'LL △△ YOUR ○○○ !!
BUT YOU MUSTN'T BE LECHEROUS ANYMORE.
AAAAH
I DON'T WANT SUZUNE TO BECOME A CHILD BEATER, SO I'LL PROTECT YOU.
HAN-ZOU...
MAA... ♡
ZWAK
JUMP
OH MY, YOU'RE SO ENERGETIC.
HANZOU, I'LL WASH YOUR BACK FOR YOU.

YUKI!!
FWUMP
YUKI...
...MAKE ME YOUR WIFE?
WILL YOU...


HUH?!
I TOLD GREAT-GRANDPA ABOUT THE MARRIAGE.
"DEAR"?!
MY GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER'S STILL INEXPERIENCED, BUT PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER.

I...

I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO MAKE ME YOUR WIFE JUST BECAUSE I WANTED TO FORGET ABOUT HANZO.

...SO I NEED YOU TO TAKE IT OFF FOR ME, YUKI...

THAT'S ...?
HANZO'S WRISTBAND.
WELL... IT'S ALL THAT'S LEFT OF HIM NOW.
"WHEN-EVER I WANT..."
"NOW I CAN FEEL YOUR PRESENCE NEAR ME WHENEVER I WANT TO."
I...
...CAN'T TAKE THIS OFF MYSELF...

SOB
SOB
I'M SO GLAD YOU MET SUCH A WONDERFUL PERSON...
GREAT-GRANDPA, YOUR DISGUISE IS COMING OFF...!
AAAAGH!!
WAAARGH...
WAAA...
THANK YOU, YUKI...

"I'LL STOP STEALING IF YOU'LL MARRY ME."
HE SAID THAT TO ME, BUT...

WHAT?
N... NOTHING.

H!
I'M ALL FOR YUKI TOO, USA... ♪
NOW I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT FOR GOEMON. ♡

OH!

I WON'T TAKE IT OFF.

WHAT...?
YOU'RE STILL IN LOVE WITH HANZO, AREN'T YOU?
SO I WANT YOU TO STAY THAT WAY.
...IS SOME-ONE WHO'D ALWAYS BEEN IN LOVE WITH HANZO.
THE USAGI I FELL IN LOVE WITH...

GOEMON !!
CLOMP
CLOMP

WHAT?
TUG
COME WITH ME.

AAAAAAH!
TP
USAGI...
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING USAGI?!
ZWAK
JUMP

I JUST NEED TO BE HONEST AND TELL HIM HOW I FEEL...
I'M SURE HE'LL UNDERSTAND ONCE I TALK TO HIM...

ZWAK
ZWAK
I WONDER WHEN GOEMON IS GOING TO COME BACK...?
THAT... THAT'S OKAY!
BUT WON'T IT START TO GET WARM SOON?
USA...
WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?
HEH
IT'S A DOTERA. ♪

UM... I...
YUKI AND I ARE...
YOU'RE GOING TO MARRY HIM, RIGHT?
OH...
I JUST WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ALONE WITHOUT ANY INTERRUPTIONS.
USAGI...
YOU KNEW...?
I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT.
I'M SORRY I TOLD YOU THAT I'D STOP STEALING IF YOU'D MARRY ME...

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?!
LET ME GO, GOEMON!
QUIET.
FWISH
FWISH
HEY...
ARE WE...
...ELOPING?!
YOU'RE GOING TO FALL IF YOU MOVE AROUND SO MUCH.
WHOA!
WE'RE...!
WE'RE REALLY HIGH UP...!!
NO...
HE'S KIDNAPPING ME...!!
WE'RE HERE.
UH...

I'LL TAKE SOME OF IT OUT LATER...
I GUESS I STUFFED TOO MUCH COTTON IN IT.
THIS IS FINE.
SHUP
UH-HUH.
YOU MADE IT YOURSELF, USAGI?
IT'S REALLY HEAVY ...
FWUMP
I WAS GOING TO GIVE THIS TO YOU, GOEMON...
SHEEN
FOOMP
IT FEELS LIKE I'M CARRYING YOU ON MY BACK, SO IT'S A FAMILIAR, COMFORTABLE FEELING.
!

THEN, GOEMON...
THE STEALING ...?
I'LL QUIT.
I WON'T DO ANYTHING YOU DON'T WANT ME TO DO.
THANK GOOD-NESS...!
SIGH
WATCH OUT!
AAH!
AAAGH!!
JEEZ...

WHAT ARE YOU HOLDING?
I...I THOUGHT I WAS A GONER...

I'M SURE YUKIMARU WILL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU.
YES...

WOW... IT'S SO BEAUTI-FUL...
THE VIEW OF THE SUNSET FROM HERE IS THE BEST.
YOU GREW UP IN THE MOUNTAINS, SO YOU HAVEN'T HAD MUCH OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE SUN SET INTO THE SEA, HUH?
OH...
BUT I GUESS YOU'VE SEEN IT AT OKAZAKI ...
NO.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET...
I NEVER REALLY TOOK THE TIME TO FULLY APPRECIATE THE SEA BACK THERE.

SLUMP
...KAY...
I'M GLAD...
...YOU'RE O...
YUKI!!
USAGI...!!
YUKI!!
HE EXHAUSTED HIMSELF LOOKING FOR ME...
THANK YOU, YUKI...

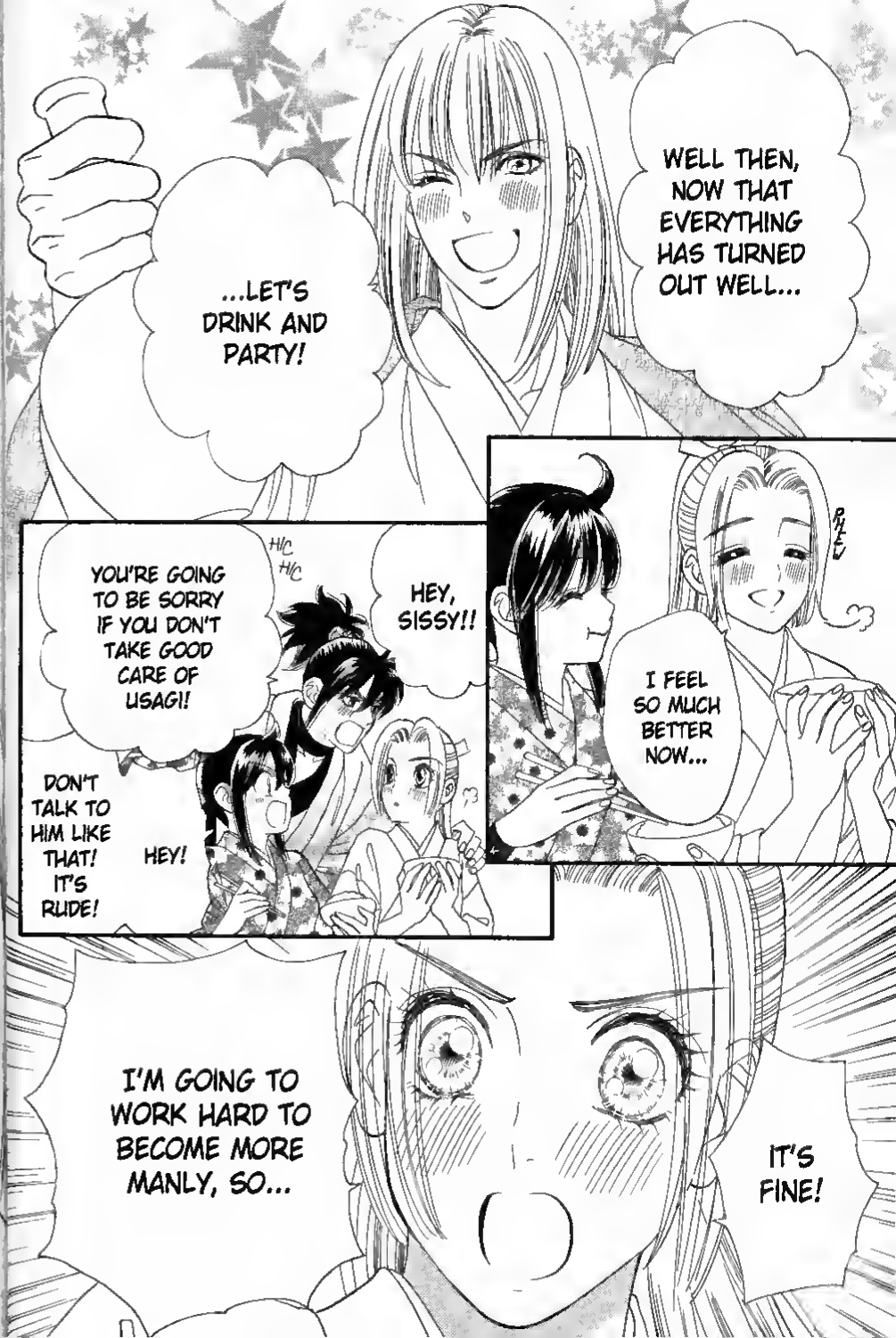
DO YOU KNOW HOW WORRIED I WAS...?
GOEMON!
SHOUE
WE'RE HOME...
SORRY.
AGH!

WHERE'S YUKI?
Sorry I worried you.
IT'S JUST LIKE THE MASTER SAID. YOU CAME BACK...
WHAT'S WITH THAT TACKY OVERCOAT?!
EEW!

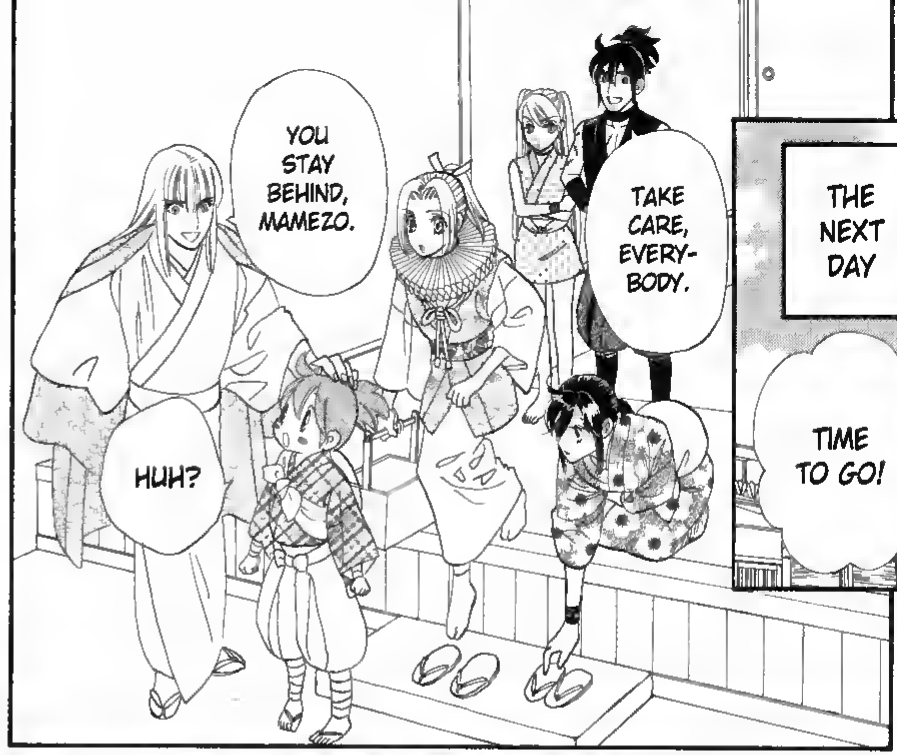
I'D BETTER GO LOOK FOR HIM!!
ZNAK ZNAK

HE HASN'T COME BACK FROM GOING OUT TO LOOK FOR YOU...
WHAT ?!

MY HOME AND MY LOVE WERE TAKEN FROM ME.
I'VE BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH...
...BUT I NEVER KNEW THERE WOULD BE A DAY WHEN I WOULD BE ABLE TO LAUGH LIKE THIS AGAIN.
HA HA HA HA
NO, NO.
LET'S HAVE HIM PUSH HIMSELF!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUSH YOURSELF, YUKI...
YES!
D-DEFINITELY!!
"GOING TO"?
I WILL PUSH MYSELF!!

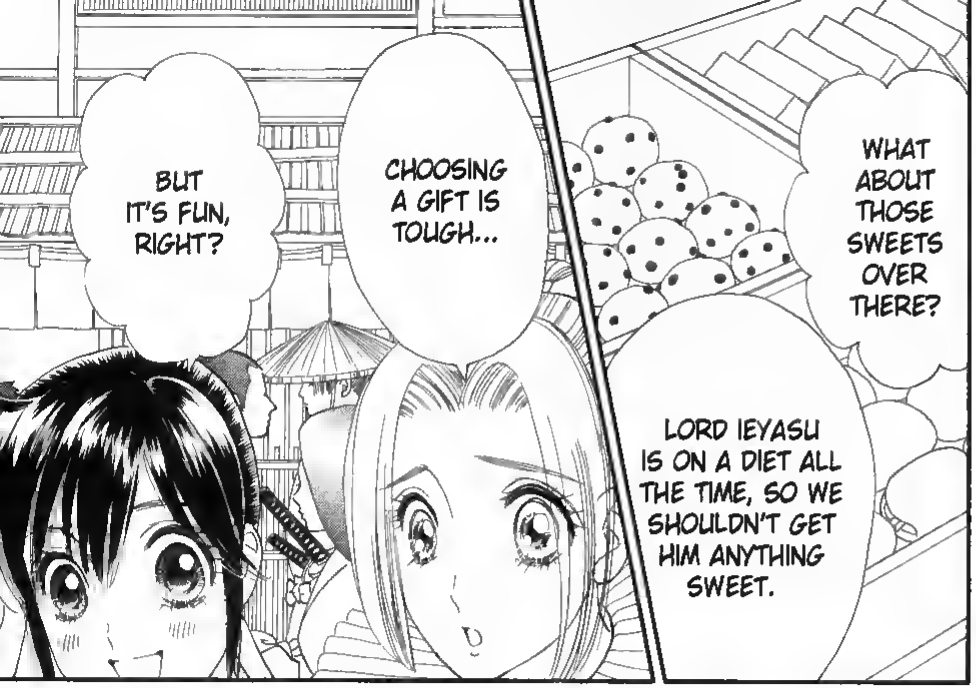

WELL THEN, NOW THAT EVERYTHING HAS TURNED OUT WELL...
...LET'S DRINK AND PARTY!
I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER NOW...
HEY, SISSY!!
YOU'RE GOING TO BE SORRY IF YOU DON'T TAKE GOOD CARE OF USAGI!
DON'T TALK TO HIM LIKE THAT! IT'S RUDE!
HEY!
I'M GOING TO WORK HARD TO BECOME MORE MANLY, SO...
IT'S FINE!

I'M GOING TO LIVE FOR A VERY LONG TIME FOR YOU, SO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, USAGI.
GREAT-GRANDPA ...
KRA
BYE.
BOOM
SHHH
URGH
SHHH
COUGH
COULDN'T HE JUST LEAVE NORMALLY?
THAT OLD MAN...
WAAARGH... I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING...
WHAT'S THIS SMOKE ...?


YOU STAY BEHIND, MAMEZO.
TAKE CARE, EVERY-BODY.
HUH?
THE NEXT DAY
TIME TO GO!

I HAVE TO LEAVE USA...?!
AW...
YOU MUST STAY BEHIND AND MAKE SURE GOEMON DOESN'T DO ANYTHING BAD AGAIN.

GREAT-GRANDPA, LET'S GO BACK TOGETHER...
IT'S ONLY GOING TO MAKE IT HARDER FOR US TO PART IF WE STAY TOGETHER ANY LONGER.
SEE YOU.
TAKE CARE OF YOUR-SELVES, EVERYONE.
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO START BEING INDEPENDENT, MAMEZO.
BUT...
YOU'LL SEE ME AGAIN SOON.


BUT IT'S FUN, RIGHT?
CHOOSING A GIFT IS TOUGH...
WHAT ABOUT THOSE SWEETS OVER THERE?
LORD IEYASU IS ON A DIET ALL THE TIME, SO WE SHOULDN'T GET HIM ANYTHING SWEET.

THE CAPITAL, HUH?
THINGS WERE FINE ON THE WAY HERE SINCE GREAT-GRANDPA WAS WITH US...
...BUT THE NINJA HUNT ISN'T OVER YET. I REALLY SHOULDN'T GO NEAR THE CAPITAL RIGHT NOW. YET...

MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T ...?
NO, IT SHOULD BE OKAY.

USAGI...
CAN WE DROP BY THE CAPITAL SO THAT I CAN GET A SOUVENIR FOR LORD IEYASU?
PHEW...
THE SMELL OF THAT SMOKE FINALLY FADED...

I'LL BE FINE.
LET'S GO TO THE CAPITAL!
I JUST NEED TO BE CAREFUL, THAT'S ALL.

Tail of the Moon

Chapter 90

LET'S GO!

LITTLE HANZO

IT'S SO NICE TO SEE LITTLE HANZO BEING SO EARNEST AND NOBLE.
♡
BUT WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF THE TITLE WAS, "HANG TOUGH! LITTLE HANZO"...?

YOU MUST CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF!
HAN-ZOU.
HANZOU WAS A CHILD WHO WAS REALLY GOOD AT SWIMMING WITH THE TIDE.
He isn't satisfied unless things are clean
I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE WHO MAKE EXCUSES.
BUT HANZOU DID THIS...
HAN-ZO...!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS MESS?
THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE DONE UP THERE.
BUT IT'S NOT AN EXCUSE! IT'S THE TRUTH...
SWING
BUT WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO THINK ABOUT?
THIS IS HOW HANZO'S MIND AND STRENGTH WERE FOSTERED...

THAT'S THE SHOP WHERE I BOUGHT HANZO'S DOGU.
THAT DOGU AND HANZO ARE BOTH GONE NOW...
...BUT THIS SHOP IS STILL HERE LIKE BEFORE...
"I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT."
WHAT'S WRONG, USAGI?
NOTHING.
IT'S LATE, SO WHY DON'T WE STAY OVERNIGHT SOMEPLACE?
HUH?!
OH... SURE...

I'M SURE HE WILL.
DO YOU THINK HE'LL BE HAPPY WITH THIS CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE?
LORD IEYASU'S GIFT...
OH!
THAT SHOP...
ANTIQUES
古道人

TMP
BUMP
TMP
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AGH!

...SEEMS TO BE SO SENSITIVE ABOUT ALL THIS...
YUKI...

OH

AND WE'RE GOING TO GET MARRIED TOO...!!
MAYBE I'M NOT BEING SENSITIVE ENOUGH TO YUKI'S FEELINGS?!

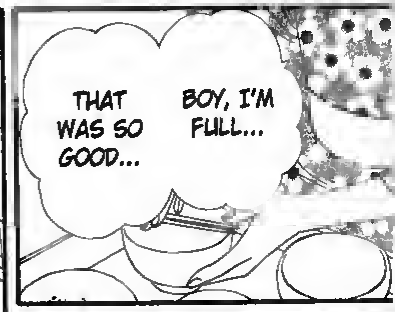
THAT'S OKAY, RIGHT?
TO... TOGETHER ?!

TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
THIS WAY, PLEASE.
OKAY.
UHHH...
UH...
TH-THUMP

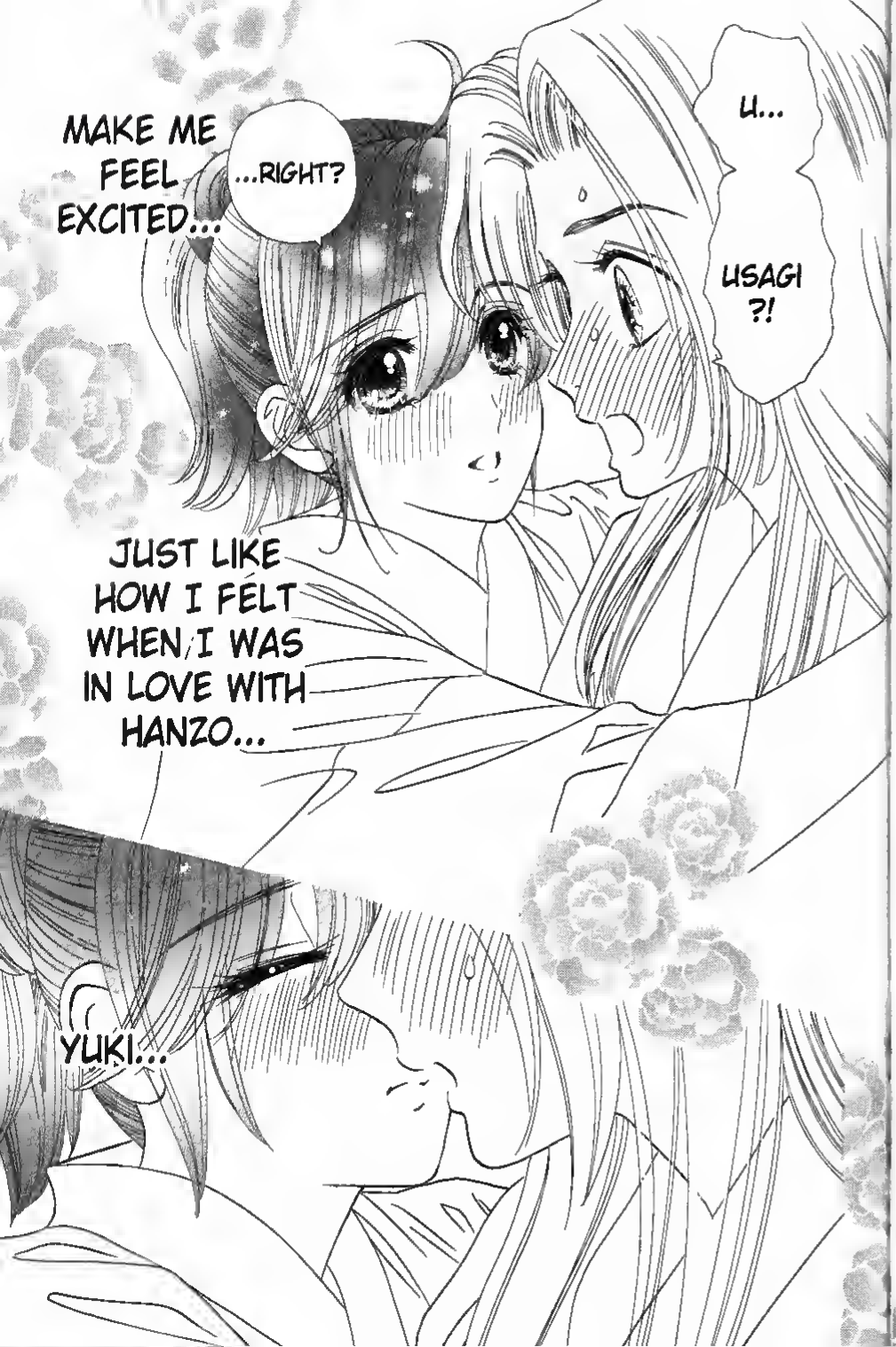
御宿
御宿
TWO PEOPLE?
WE'LL HAVE A ROOM TOGETHER.
YES. TWO SEPARATE ROOMS, PLE—

TMP
TMP
I... I'M...
...GOING TO TAKE A BATH RIGHT NOW...!!
HUH?

I...
I FEEL LIKE I'VE GOT...
...A LUMP IN MY THROAT...
...


THAT WAS SO GOOD...
BOY, I'M FULL...

N...
NO, IT'S JUST THAT ...
YOU DON'T LIKE THE FOOD?
YUKI, YOU HAVEN'T EATEN MUCH.


MAKE ME FEEL EXCITED...
...RIGHT?
U...
USAGI ?!
JUST LIKE HOW I FELT WHEN I WAS IN LOVE WITH HANZO...
YUKI...

SHHK
I'M BACK...
DAZED
WELCOME BACK, YUKI!
I WAS DONE WITH MY BATH FIRST...
TADA
!!!!
I'LL MOVE MY FUTON RIGHT AWAY...
I'M SO SORRY!
WHAT THE...? DID THE MAID LAY OUT THE FUTONS LIKE THAT?!
IT'S OKAY.
WE'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED ANYWAY...

VIP
THIS ISN'T RIGHT...
IT'S SOMETHING WE SHOULD DO AFTER WE GET MARRIED...
IT...
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS WITH YOU, BUT...!!
I UNDER-STAND.
USAGI...
I'M GOING OUT TO COOL MY HEAD A BIT...
I'M SORRY.
SIGH... I BLEW IT...

I LOVE YUKI...
...BUT IT'S NOT THE KIND OF LOVE THAT GETS MY HEART RACING...
I'M NOT SURE IF I SHOULD EVEN GET MARRIED IF I FEEL LIKE THIS...

TOK TOK
VIP
C...
COME BACK HERE...!!
GOOD, I'VE LOST THEM...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF..
TMP
WHY...

DASH
DASH

WHO ARE THEY?!
THEY'RE COMING AFTER ME.

THOK
AAAH!
NINJA HUNTERS ?!
THOK

...
YUKI ...!!
御宿
澤野屋
USAGI'S BEEN A WHILE.
I'LL JUST GO TO BED AND WAIT FOR HER.
BUT MAYBE SHE'LL THINK I'M BEING TOO PERSISTENT...?
FIDGET FIDGET
I SHOULD GO LOOK FOR HER...

RANMARU ?!
LONG TIME NO SEE...
...USAGI.
AH...
TMP TMP TMP

AH.
YOU'VE EXPERIENCED THIS BEFORE, HAVEN'T YOU?
BUT YOU WERE WITH A FRIEND LAST TIME.
CAN IT BE THAT YOU HATE ME?
YOUR HOME, YOUR FRIENDS, AND YOUR LOVE...
I TOOK EVERYTHING FROM YOU.

SNAP
NGH...
?!
THIS PLACE...
IT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES, DOESN'T IT?
!!

DON'T CRY...
I WANT TO HELP YOU.
AAAGH
I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO FIND ANY OTHER WOMAN LIKE YOU.
RANMARU ...?!
I WANT YOU TO BE MINE.

I CAN'T HATE YOU ENOUGH!!
OF COURSE I HATE YOU!!
CHUCKLE
CAN'T HATE ME ENOUGH, HUH?
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD EVER FORGIVE HIM.
HE TOOK THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE MOST PRECIOUS TO ME.
GIVE THEM ALL BACK TO ME!!
GIVE THEM BACK TO ME!!

I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO TAKE YOUR OWN LIFE.
KLAK KLAK
STOP THAT!!
DRIP DRIP
TAKE YOUR HAND AWAY...
FOOSH
!!
IF YOU STOP BEING A NINJA AND BECOME MINE...
...I PROMISE THAT I WILL SPARE YOUR LIFE.
NGHH!
BITE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?!
PLIP PLIP
SHA
USAGI...
I'D RATHER DIE THAN BELONG TO YOU!!

SHUP
FIRE...!!
TMP TMP
FIRE?!

...BUT THE FIRE WILL TAKE YOU TO WHERE YOUR BELOVED WAITS.
TMP TMP
RANMARU !!
KLAK
WHERE'S THE FIRE?!
LOOKS LIKE I WON'T HAVE TO KILL YOU MYSELF ...
WAIT!
LET ME OUT OF HERE!

SHHN
...
PITY.
WAP
...
AGH!
DROP
SHA

I...
...USED TO LIKE HOW YOU WEREN'T LIKE A KUNOICHI.
FARE-WELL...
WSHH

I HAVE TO CONTINUE TO LIVE FOR HANZO'S AND KAME'S SAKES...
GASP
I WILL LEAD A HAPPY LIFE.
GASP
NOT ANY-MORE.
KRSHHA
AAAH...
IF I DIED NOW...
...EVERY-THING WOULD BE LOST.

WHUMP
WHUMP
WHUMP
DASH
KOFF
KOFF
A WHILE AGO, I WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED MY DEATH.
KOFF
KOFF
BUT...
I WANTED TO DIE.

KRSHA
AA
I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.
HANZO...!
KRSHAA
KOFF
KOFF
HAN...
...ZO...
...
GASP

LET'S GO!

LITTLE HANZO

USAGI ?!
SHA
WHAT HAPPENED ?!
JUMP
WSH
WAIT!
YOU'RE...

ZWAK
御宿
御宿
USAGI STILL HASN'T COME BACK.
SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO HER...
VUP
OH!

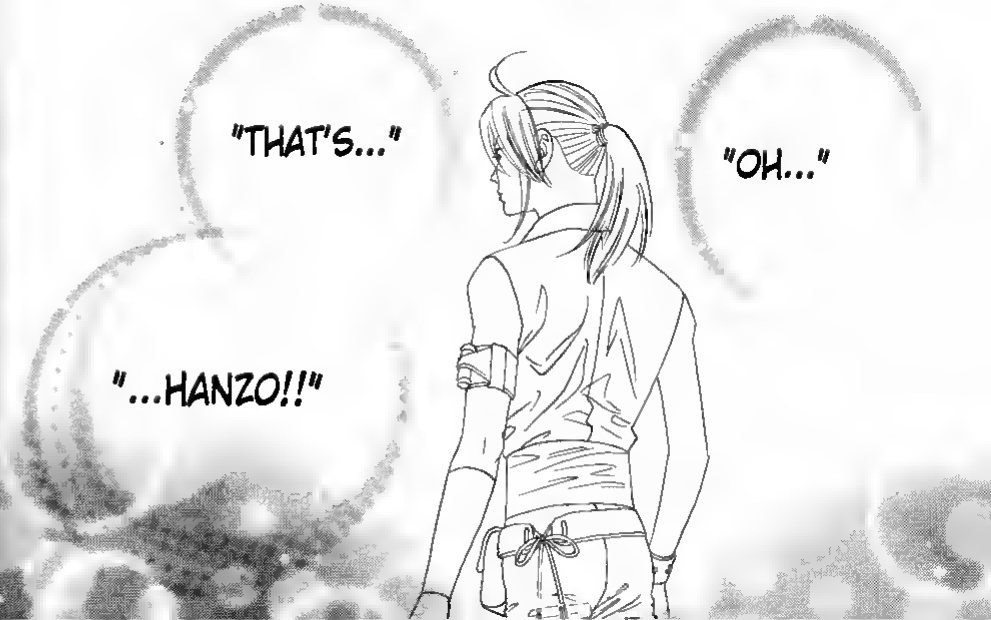
"HE'S STILL AS COOL-LOOKING AS EVER THOUGH..."
"AHH... I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN SO LONG..."

"...I'VE DECIDED TO MARRY YUKI..."
MUMBLE MUMBLE
"I'M SORRY TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT..."
"UM..."

"BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TO CHEAT ON YOU OR FORGET YOU, HANZO."
SHUP
"OH!"

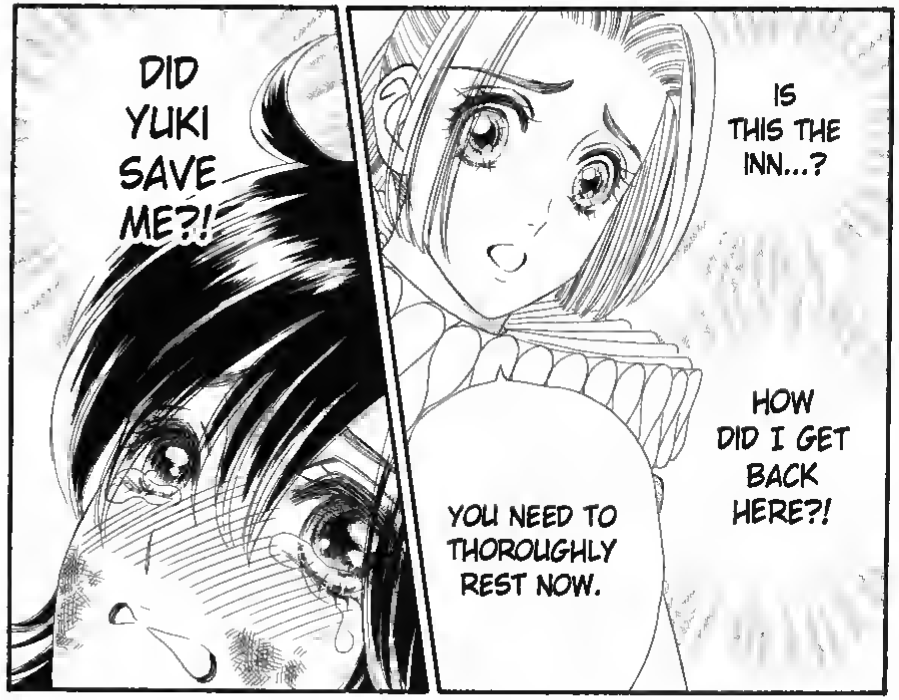
"I REALLY LOVE YOU!!"
TROM
TROM
"I'M STILL IN LOVE WITH YOU!"

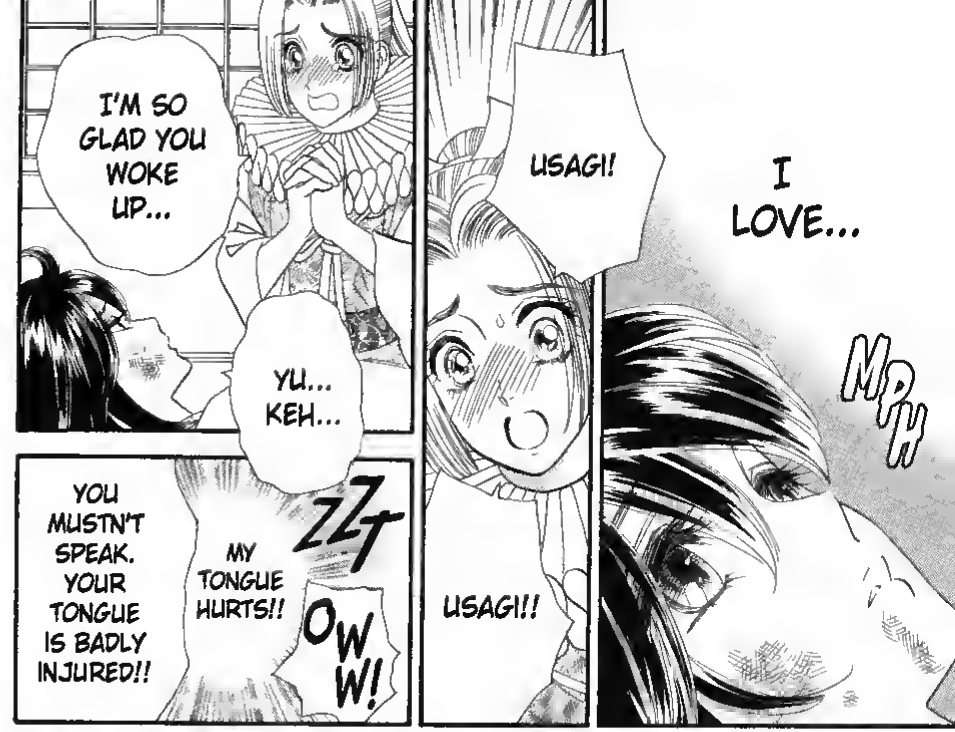
CAN IT BE...?


"THAT'S..."
"OH..."
"...HANZO!!"

USAGI...
WE MUTHN'T THAY HEAH ...!!
OH!

THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME...
YUKI...


DID YUKI SAVE ME?!
YOU NEED TO THOROUGHLY REST NOW.
IS THIS THE INN...?
HOW DID I GET BACK HERE?!


I'M SO GLAD YOU WOKE UP...
YU... KEH...
YOU MUSTN'T SPEAK. YOUR TONGUE IS BADLY INJURED!!
MY TONGUE HURTS!!
ZZT
OW W!
USAGI!!
USAGI!
I LOVE...
MPH

PANT
PANT
I'M FINE.
YUKI...
YOU OKEH...?
...HEAVY.
YOU'RE NOT...
HEEZE
HEEZE
BUH I'M HEHVEE...
HEEZE
HEEZE
I SEE...
NO...
DON'T YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT RETURNING HERE AFTER BEING CAUGHT?
USAGI ...
PANT
PANT

RANMARU WILL COME BACK TO GET ME!!
WE...
...MUTHT GO!!
ALL RIGHT.
...
USAGI, NO!
IF YOU MOVE, YOUR WOUND'S GOING TO...
TMP TMP
御宿
I'LL CARRY YOU ON MY BACK.
EH...
I CAN'T LET MY PATIENT JUST WALK AROUND LIKE THIS.
HURRY UP!!

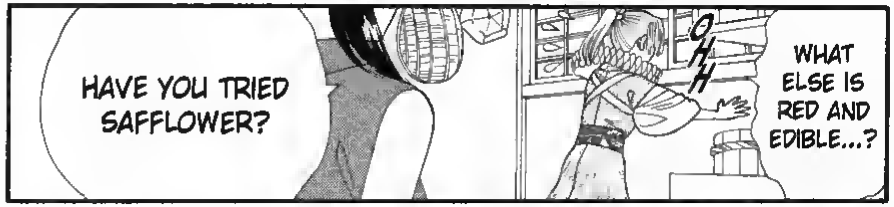
YUKI MUST HAVE COME ALL THE WAY TO AZUCHI TO SAVE ME.
THEN... SO I WAS TAKEN TO AZUCHI?
KYUUN
YUKI...
THANK OO...
YOU SHOULDN'T SPEAK...
WHAT...?
OH.
IF YOU DIN COME TUH THAVE ME, I WOOLUH BEEN DEAD.

HEEZE
HEEZE
HEEZE
HEEZE
HEEZE
HEEZE
YUKI...
I SAID... ...I'M FINE...
OH...
LETH RETH AT THUT TEA THOP.
I'M FINE...
I WANNA TAKE A RETH!
GASP
GASP
THERE WAS A HUGE FIRE AT AZUCHI CASTLE THE OTHER DAY...
RUMOR HAS IT THAT SOMEBODY WITH A GRUDGE AGAINST NOBUNAGA DELIBERATELY SET THE FIRE.

RED KONNYAKU ?!
I'VE HAD SEVERAL COOKS FROM NEARBY TOWNS AND VILLAGES WORK ON IT, BUT NONE OF THEM HAVE BEEN SUCCESS-FUL...
NOBUNAGA...
USAGI...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OH DEAR... NOW I'M SORRY I TOLD YOU ABOUT IT...
I'LL MAKE THE KONNYAKU, SO YOU GO REST, USAGI.

OKAZAKI
YUKIMARU AND USAGI!
WELCOME BACK.
OH?
YOU BOTH LOOK EXHAUSTED.
LOR IEYATHU ...
WE HAVE A GIFF FOR OO...
漢方
IT...IT'S NOTHING...
...SERI...
...OUS...
HEEZE HEEZE
MY LORD...
ABOUT THAT CASE...
HMM...
THEY LOOK TOO TIRED...
LORD NOBUNAGA HAS ORDERED ME TO CREATE KONNYAKU THAT IS "AS RED AS BLOOD"...
IF ITH A PATHIENT, I CAN WURK RIGHT AWAY...
WHAT IS IT?
PANT PANT
HEEZE
IT'S NOT THAT...

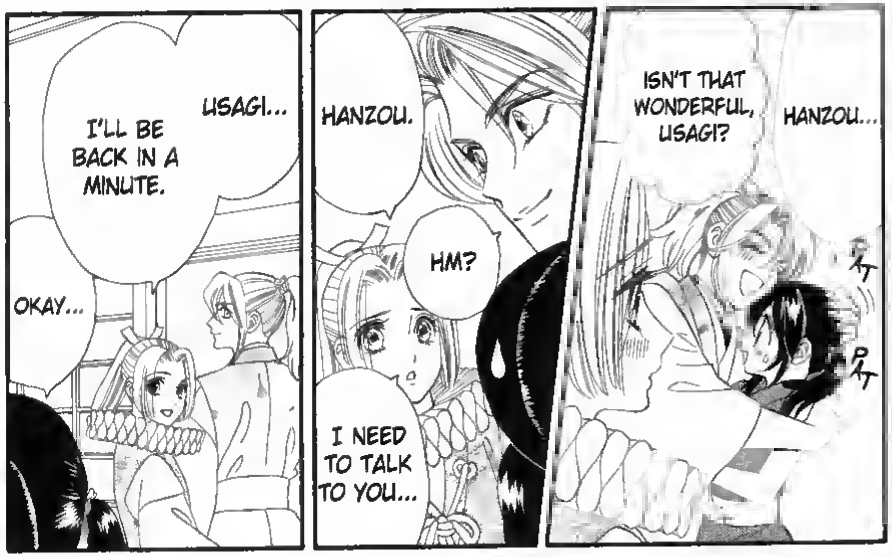
SEVEN DAYS LATER
IT'S NO USE...
WHY?
WHAT AM I DOING WRONG?!
IT WON'T TURN RED WITH WATERMELON OR CARROTS!!

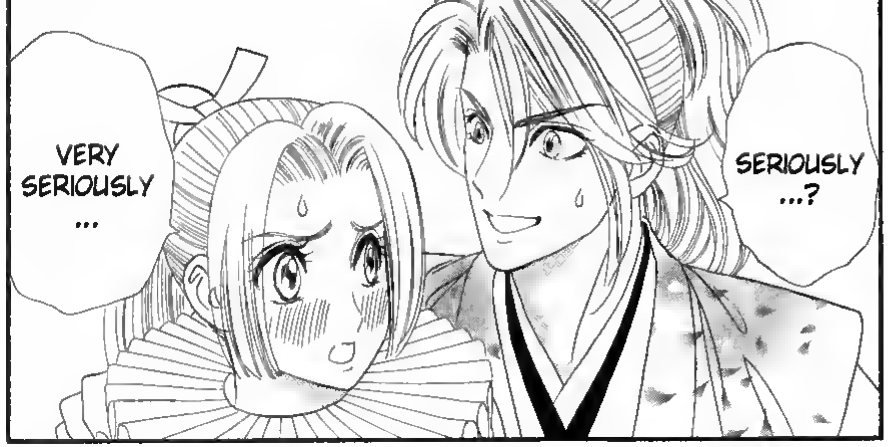

HAVE YOU TRIED SAFFLOWER?
OH
WHAT ELSE IS RED AND EDIBLE...?

WHAT...?
BUT IT'S LORD NOBUNAGA'S REQUEST, SO...
USAGI ?!
LET ME HELP.

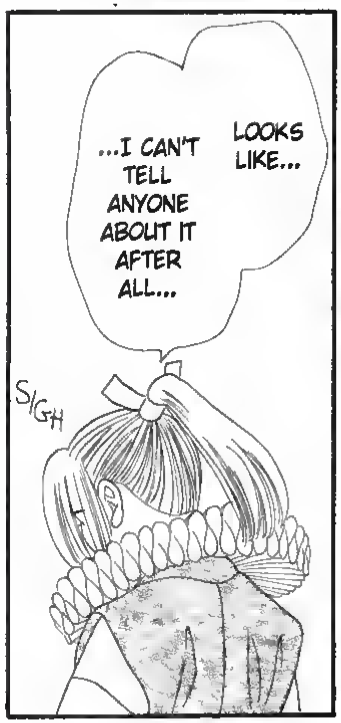
I'M DOING IT FOR LORD IEYASU.
USAGI...

WELCOME HOME!
I HEARD THAT YOUR GREAT-GRANDPA AND THE OTHERS ARE ALIVE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF IGA...

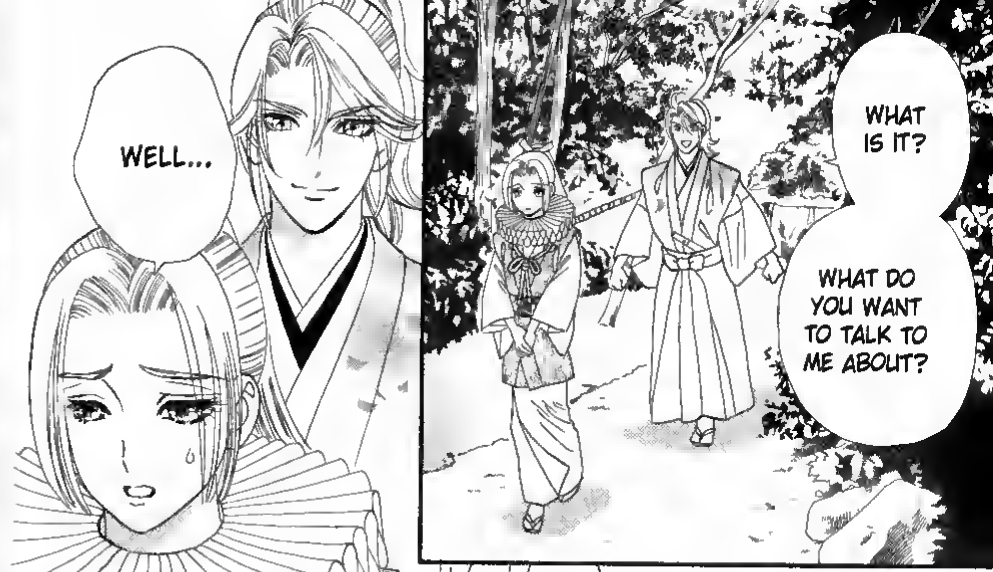

USAGI...
I'LL BE BACK IN A MINUTE.
OKAY...
HANZOU.
HM?
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU...
HANZOU...
ISN'T THAT WONDERFUL, USAGI?

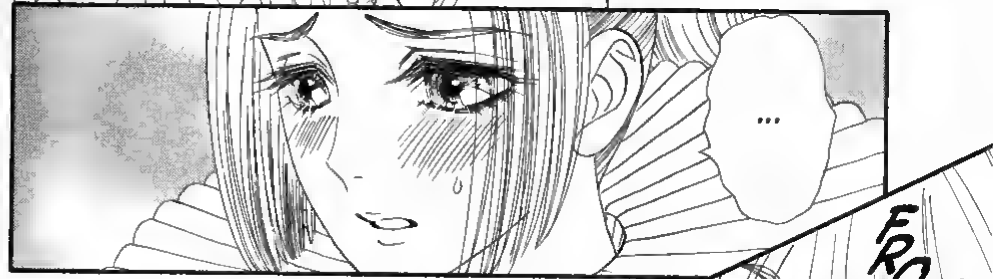

VERY SERIOUSLY ...
SERIOUSLY ...?

...
MY GOD...


...I CAN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT AFTER ALL...
LOOKS LIKE...
SIGH

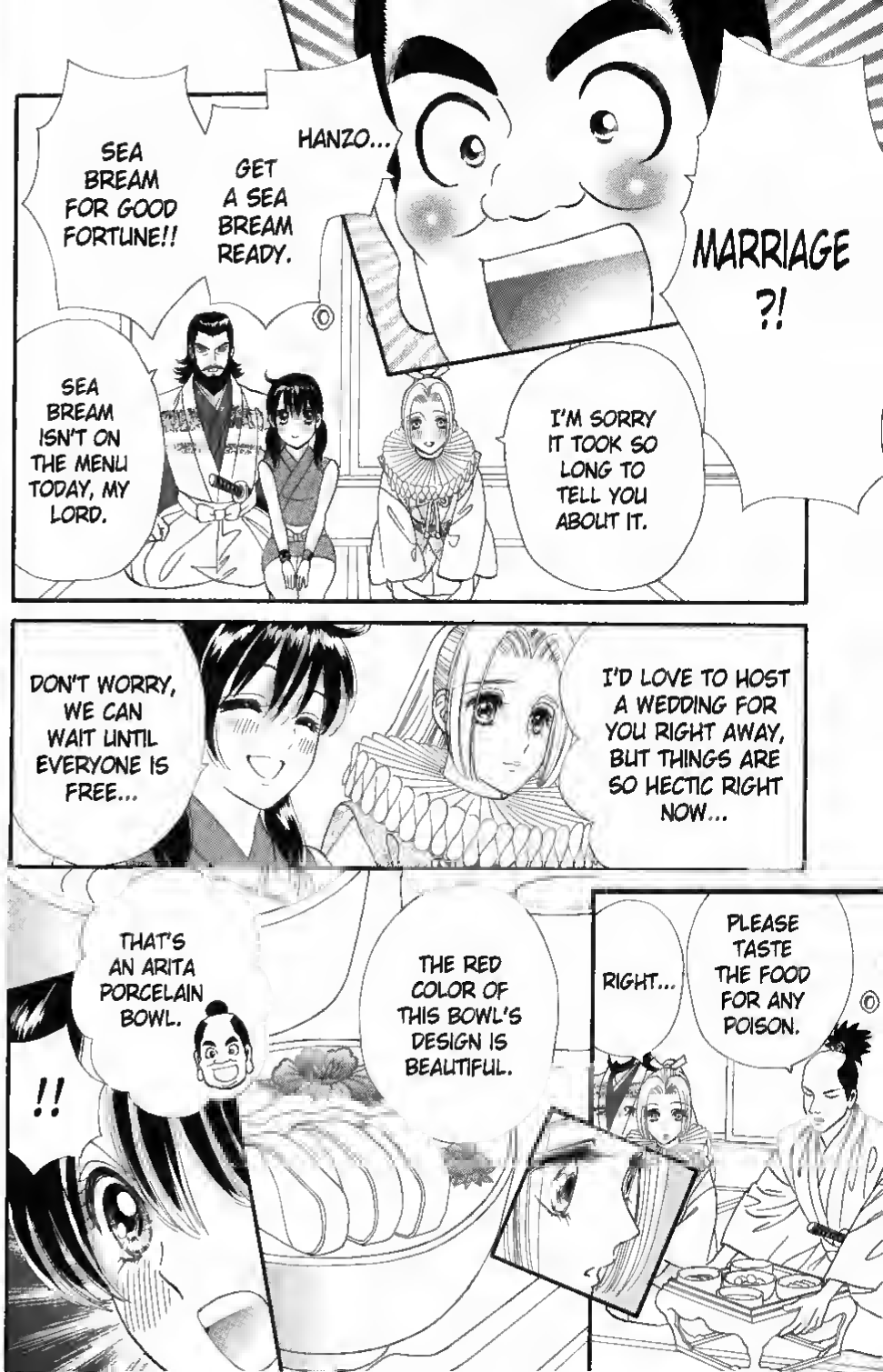
AND I WAS GOING TO MAKE USAGI MY CONCUBINE ...
LORD IEYASU ...!!
HUH...?


WELL...
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?


...

FROWN
I'M GOING TO MARRY USAGI!!
YES, SIR!!
SPEAK YOUR MIND!!
WELL, WHAT IS IT?!

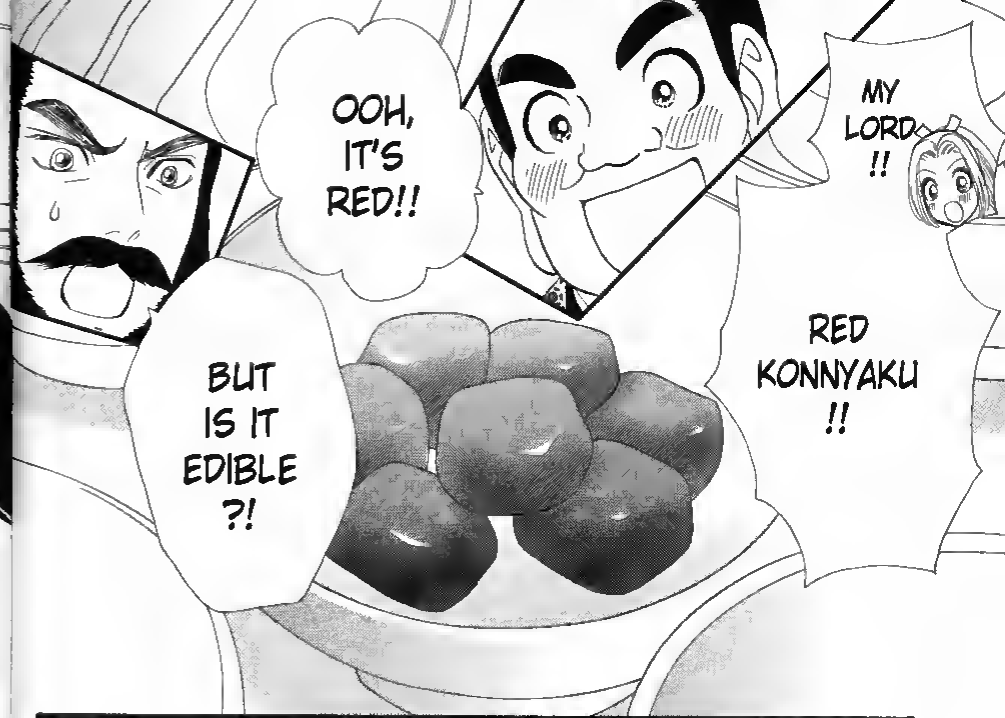
What was that about?
I don't know...
DASH
DASH
DASH
I GOT IT!
THREE DAYS LATER
IS USAGI STILL INSIDE THE KITCHEN TODAY?
YES...
USAGI?!
I'LL CHECK THE FOOD FOR POISON...
!!


HANZO...
MARRIAGE ?!
SEA BREAM FOR GOOD FORTUNE!!
GET A SEA BREAM READY.
SEA BREAM ISN'T ON THE MENU TODAY, MY LORD.
I'M SORRY IT TOOK SO LONG TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT.
DON'T WORRY, WE CAN WAIT UNTIL EVERYONE IS FREE...
I'D LOVE TO HOST A WEDDING FOR YOU RIGHT AWAY, BUT THINGS ARE SO HECTIC RIGHT NOW...
THAT'S AN ARITA PORCELAIN BOWL.
!!
THE RED COLOR OF THIS BOWL'S DESIGN IS BEAUTIFUL.
RIGHT...
PLEASE TASTE THE FOOD FOR ANY POISON.

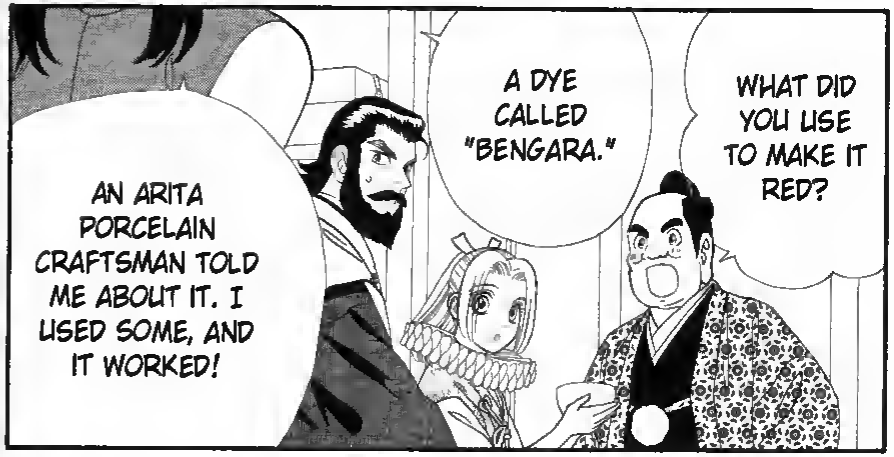
IT TASTES LIKE ANY OTHER KONNYAKU.
WHAT...?
IF YOU SAY SO, YUKIMARU...
IT ISN'T HARMFUL TO THE BODY, SO...
YOU USED DYE THAT'S USED FOR *POTTERY* ?!
IT'S GOOD.

WELL DONE, USAGI!!
IT *IS* GOOD.
OOH...
MY LORD...

I'M SO GRATEFUL YOU SUCCESSFULLY CREATED RED KONNYAKU.
I'LL HAVE IT SENT TO AZUCHI RIGHT AWAY!!


OOH, IT'S RED!!
MY LORD !!
BUT IS IT EDIBLE ?!
RED KONNYAKU !!

I ATE SOME YESTERDAY WITH THE WORKERS IN THE KITCHEN, AND WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY PROBLEMS.
IT SURE IS!


AN ARITA PORCELAIN CRAFTSMAN TOLD ME ABOUT IT. I USED SOME, AND IT WORKED!
A DYE CALLED "BENGARA."
WHAT DID YOU USE TO MAKE IT RED?

IF THERE'S SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND, TELL ME ABOUT IT.
AT...
AT THE CAPITAL...

RIGHT ...?
...YUKI?
MAYBE WE CAN FINALLY TAKE SOME TIME OFF AT LAST...
WE'VE BEEN SO BUSY FOR SO LONG NOW.
LORD IEYASU LOOKED REALLY HAPPY, HUH!

YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGE EVER SINCE WE RETURNED.
HUH?
WHAT?
YUKI!!

YOUR EMOTIONS ARE ALWAYS SO OBVIOUS, YUKI.
NO, I HAVEN'T...
LIAR!

TO BE CONTINUED...

Page 178, panel 7: Arita Porcelain
A type of Japanese porcelain first made in 1616, Arita porcelain often has dragons, flowers, and sometimes bamboo as part of its design.

Page 180, panel 5: Bengara
Bengara is the Japanese term for the red-ocher dye imported from Bengal, India.

Page 146, panel 1: Ranmaru Mori
Ranmaru Mori was one of Oda Nobunaga's most famous vassals. He became Nobunaga's attendant at a young age and was recognized for his talent and loyalty.

Page 170, panel 5: Azuchi Castle
Azuchi Castle was one of Oda Nobunaga's main castles. It is located on the shores of Lake Biwa in Shiga prefecture. The castle's strategic location enabled Nobunaga to manage his foes more easily, namely the Uesugi clan to the north and the Mouri clan to the west.

Page 172, panel 7: Konnyaku
Konnyaku is a traditional Japanese jelly-like health food made from the starch of the "devil's tongue" plant (a relative of the sweet potato).

Page 178, panel 2: Sea Bream
In Japan, *tai* (sea bream) is often eaten during celebrations because the name is a wordplay on *medetai*, which means "happy occasion."

The ways of the ninjo are mysterious indeed, sa here is o glossary af terms to help yau novigote the intricocies of their warld.

Page 16, panel 3: Okazaki Castle
Okazaki Castle is in the city of Okazaki in Aichi prefecture. This castle was home to various leaders throughout history, including Tokugawa Ieyasu. Though demolished in 1873, the castle was reconstructed in 1959.

Page 23, panel 3: Kunoichi
A term often used for female ninja. The word is spelled くノ一, and when combined, the letters form the kanji for woman, 女。

Page 25, panel 2: Ninjutsu
Ninjutsu means the skill or ability of a ninja.

Page 35, panel 5: Sakai
Sakai is a city in Osaka prefecture that is one of the largest and most important seaports in Japan. Once known for samurai swords, Sakai is now famous for quality kitchen knives and other cutlery.

Page 118, panel 2: Dotera
A thickly padded overcoat worn in the winter.

Page 137, panel 1: Dogu
Dogu are clay figurines that were made during the Jomon period of ancient Japan. Their purpose remains unclear, but they were most likely used as effigies to which people could transfer illnesses and then destroy, cleaning that person of the illness or misfortune.

Page 2: Oda Nobunaga
Oda Nobunaga lived from 1534 to 1582, and came close to unifying Japan. He is probably one of the most famous Japanese warlords. He was the first warlord to successfully incorporate the gun in battle and is notorious for his ruthlessness.

Page 2: Iga
Iga is a region on the island of Honshu and also the name of the famous ninja clan that originated there. Another area famous for its ninja is Kouga, in the Shiga prefecture on Honshu. Many books claim that these two ninja clans were mortal enemies, but in reality inter-ninja relations were not as bad as stories might suggest.

Page 2: Tokugawa Ieyasu
Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543-1616) was the first Shogun of the Tokugawa Shogunate. He made a small fishing village named Edo the center of his activities. Edo thrived and became a huge town, and was later renamed Tokyo, the present capital.

Page 6, panel 4: Odawara Castle
Odawara Castle was the stronghold of various rulers in Japanese history because of its strong defenses and strategic location. The original castle was eventually destroyed by the Meiji government, but it was rebuilt in 1960.

Shojo Beat

TAIL OF THE MOON
Vol. 13
The Shojo Beat Manga Edition

STORY & ART BY
RINKO UEDA

Translation & Adaptation/Tetsuichiro Miyaki
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Mark McMurray
Design/Izumi Hirayama
Editor/Amy Yu

Editor in Chief, Books/Alvin Lu
Editor in Chief, Magazines/Marc Weidenbaum
VP of Publishing Licensing/Rika Inouye
VP of Sales/Gonzalo Ferreyra
Sr. VP of Marketing/Liza Coppola
Publisher/Hyoe Narita

TSUKI-NO SHIPPO © 2002 by Rinko Ueda. All rights reserved.
First published in Japan in 2002 by SHUEISHA Inc., Tokyo. English translation rights arranged by SHUEISHA Inc. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

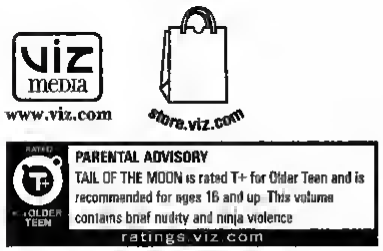
The rights of the author(s) of the work(s) in this publication to be so identified have been asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Printed in Canada

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77064
San Francisco, CA 94107

Shojo Beat Manga Edition
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, October 2008

VIZ media
www.viz.com
store.viz.com


PARENTAL ADVISORY
TAIL OF THE MOON is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains brief nudity and ninja violence.
OLDER TEEN
ratings.viz.com

I started drawing the "Little Hanzo" mini manga since Mamezo is all grown up now. I wanted to draw little children, but it's really hard...!! I always take my time when I think of how to develop the story for the main manga. It's extremely difficult for the mini manga though, since I need to be more selective with the phrases and information to include in them. But although it's difficult, I do find it to be very worthwhile.

–Rinko Ueda

Rinko Ueda is from Nara prefecture. She enjoys listening to the radio, drama CDs, and Rakugo comedy performances. Her works include *Ryo*, a series based on the legend of Gojo Bridge; *Home*, a story about love crossing national boundaries; and *Tail of the Moon (Tsuki no Shippo)*, a romantic ninja comedy.